

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Cooperative Program outstrips TV ministries

DALLAS (BP) — Six of the leading television evangelists last year had a combined income equivalent to the missions giving of 14.6 million Southern Baptists.

But the missionary and humanitarian ministries supported by the TV evangelists are scant compared to the worldwide missions programs supported by Southern Baptists, said Robert F. Polk, director of Cooperative Program Promotion for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Southern Baptists in 1986 gave slightly more than \$635 million for missions causes, somewhat less than the combined incomes of six of the top televangelists featured in the April 6 issue of U.S. News and World Report.

Five of the televangelists and their 1986 gross incomes, according to U.S. News, are Pat Robertson, \$176 million; Jim Bakker, \$172 million; Jimmy Swaggart, \$142 million; Jerry

Falwell, \$100 million and Robert Schuller, \$36 million. Also included is Oral Roberts whose income was listed at \$58 million in 1985.

Between them, the six TV evangelists, in addition to their television programs, supported four schools, a hospital, three churches, two ministries to needy children, a home for unwed mothers, and a ministry to the needy, U.S. News reported.

Meanwhile, Southern Baptist state conventions supported 67 colleges and universities with more than 200,000 students and dozens of children's homes, hospitals, and homes for aging.

Southern Baptists support 3,756 foreign missionaries in more than 100 nations and 3,637 home missionaries in the United States.

Last year the Cooperative Program provided ministries to students on 1,100 campuses in the United States

through the Baptist Student Unions.

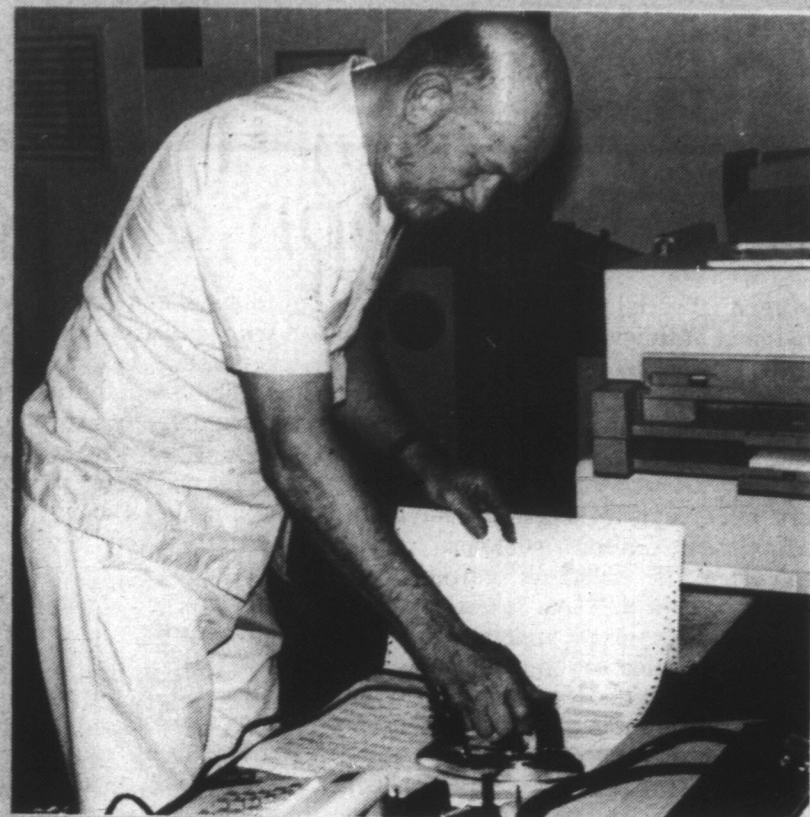
Also through the Cooperative Program in 1986, Southern Baptists supported six seminaries. In fact, one of every five seminary students in the United States is enrolled in a Southern Baptist seminary.

Also the Cooperative Program supports the work of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission which has established a television network, American Christian Television System (ACTS).

Another striking difference between the televangelists and Southern Baptist missions giving is the accountability factor, said Polk.

Polk said, "The Cooperative Program of Southern Baptists is a system of openness and accountability."

"From the local church to the missionary on the foreign field, every penny given is accounted for," Polk said.

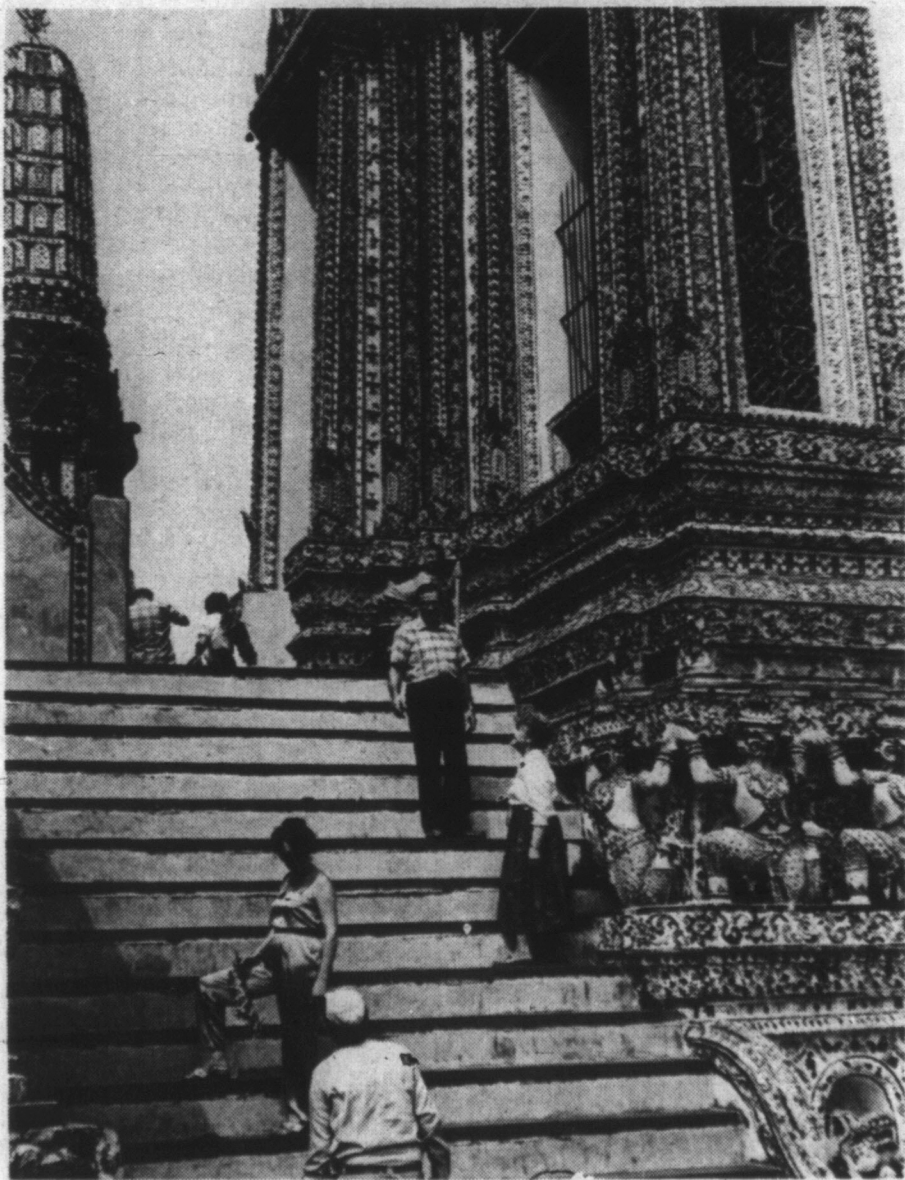


"Neither rain nor snow . . ."

Proving to what lengths those responsible will go to get the **Baptist Record** to its readers, Jean Garner irons a part of the mailing list so that it will feed through the automatic mailing machine. As the list for that week was being delivered to the printer in a rainstorm, the top portion blew off and into a puddle of water. To have rerun the entire list would have taken hours. The ironed list failed to work after all and the list was reprinted. Garner is director of the computer operation for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Tupelo couple witnesses to professionals in Thailand

By Maxine Stewart



Mr. and Mrs. Hal Buchanan (center of photo — black trousers and dark skirt) from Tupelo, participants in the Lampang, Thailand, Partnership Campaign, visit the Temple of the Dawn in Bangkok, Thailand. (Photo by Maxine Stewart)

LAMPANG, Thailand — Missionaries used six Southern Baptist lay people to break into the upper crust of northern Thai society, exposing a new side of the gospel to government officials, health care professionals and educators, including a provincial governor. Two were from Mississippi. They were educator Hal Buchanan and his wife, Dot, from Tupelo.

The Americans, professionals from various fields, went behind government office doors and into influential clubs and colleges in March to share their Christian testimony.

"As a result of this week, our problem has changed from how to find a handle to get into the business and professional community, to which handle to grab first," said missionary Ronald Hill of Spindale, N.C.

Three Thais decided to trust Jesus Christ as their savior during the week. One is the first teacher at the Lampang College of Commerce and Technology ever to become a Christian.

"God showed us Southern Baptist lay people can help make an impact in opening work in new cities, especially in gaining entrance into hard-to-reach business and professional groups," said Hill. "We now have entrance to government offices, schools and service institutions, with ministry possibilities and chances to witness personally as well as in Bible studies."

As a group, team members visited the Women's Rehabilitation and

Disease Control centers and talked of their life and faith at local meetings of the Rotary and Lions clubs, Jaycees, Provincial Medical Society and Dentists of Lampang.

Two of the Americans were invited to talk about dentistry and medicine in the United States and explained how they used Christianity in treating patients. And a college official was invited to two Thai colleges and explained to faculty and students how God had worked in his life as an educator.

One Southern Baptist had the chance to speak to the entire student body of 2,500 at a vocational college.

The group also spoke about their faith in Jesus for several hours with the governor of Uttaradit Province, Thawat Mokrapong, and his wife, who are both professing Christians but not yet baptized.

Others besides the Buchanans participating in the campaign included dentist Joe Craig and his wife, Margaret, from Charlotte, N.C.; physician Ernest Stines and his wife, Lib, from Canton, N.C.; veterinary professor Paul Smith from Auburn, Ala.; and businessman Ralph Shanafelt from Seguin, Texas, and Lionel Fox from Atlanta, Ga.

Hal Buchanan was formerly dean of education at Delta State University at Cleveland. He has over 30 years' experience in the field of education. Mrs. Buchanan went also, but not as an 'official' part of the team. Neither were the wives of the medical doctor nor the dentist, but the three of them made a real contribution to the efforts during the week.

Maxine Stewart is missionary press representative in Thailand.



Mr. and Mrs. Hal Buchanan (nearest camera) take a KLONG (canal) trip in Bangkok, Thailand, on the Chao Phya River (river of Kings). They were participants in the Lampang Partnership Campaign in north Thailand. (Photo by Maxine Stewart)

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Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Television evangelism

Southern Baptists' Radio and Television Commission has been presenting the gospel throughout the nation and around the world for many years, and it has done so with an accounting for every penny that has been spent.

There have been those who have questioned the commission's financial position since the inception of the ACTS Network, which has taken a great deal of money to get under way. But the money that has been used has been accounted for, and it seems that the commission is not in such dire circumstances as some would have us believe.

Whatever one might think about the well-known television evangelists, it has come to light in recent weeks that a lot of money is spent on the evangelists themselves in addition to whatever mission causes they may espouse.

This surely is not the case with the Radio and Television Commission. Salaries are determined by a board of directors elected by the Southern Baptist Convention, and they are carefully documented.

So the Radio and Television Commission does not waste money. Its funds are monitored by its board and eventually by the convention itself. A lot of money has been spent in initiating a marvelous evangelistic medium that is aimed at touching the lives of people, not enriching the lives of personalities.

The Radio and Television Commission has never asked for money during its programs. It takes a lot of money to keep the ACTS Network going, but the money is well spent. And the viewers are not asked to supply the financing. Much of the Radio and Television Commission's financing comes from the mission gifts of Southern Baptists. And the viewers are not asked to supply the financing.

Additional money has to come from supporters who realize the enormous good that is coming and can come from the presentations of the network. The network could use more people of this persuasion.

Mississippians are deeply involved in ACTS programming. During the second annual ACTS awards ceremony recently Mississippi walked off with more than its share of the honors, including the Jimmy R. Allen Award, which went to Mississippian Jerry Clower of Yazoo City. That award is named for the president of the Radio and Television Commission.

Other Mississippi recipients included Best Seasonal Special (Carols by Candlelight of First Church, Jackson) sponsored by ACTS of Jackson; Best Musical Program, ACTS of Cleveland and Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Best Community Event Program, ACTS of Jackson; Best Human Interest Program, ACTS of Jackson;

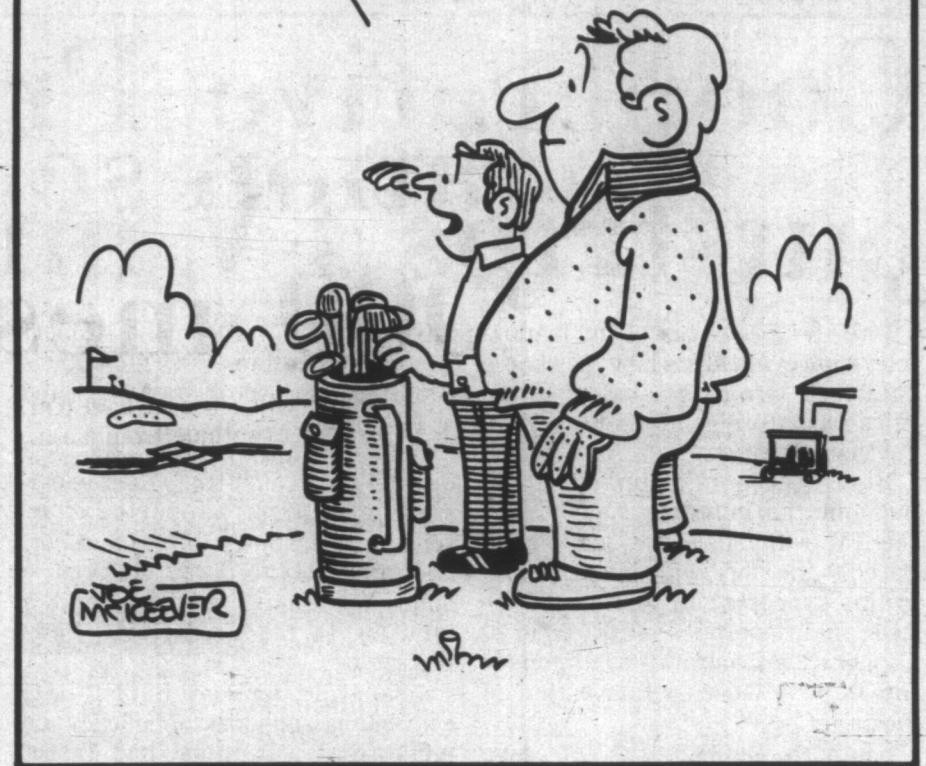
and Best Program of the Year, ACTS of Hattiesburg.

The Community Service Award for cable broadcasting went to Delta ACTS Board of Cleveland.

I did not get to attend the ACTS Awards Ceremony this year because of attending the inerrancy conference at Ridgecrest just before that. I did go last year and was very appreciative of the efforts of the Radio and Television Commission and many local Baptist entities in producing such quality programming as is seen on ACTS. It deserves support. It is doing much more with much less money than is the case of the more flamboyant television evangelists who do not make any accounting for what they receive.

Southern Baptists would do well to channel whatever support they might plan to put into television programming in the Radio and Television Commission for use by the ACTS Network.

"THAT BALL DISAPPEARED
LIKE DOCTRINAL CONTROVERSY
AT A PRAYER MEETING!"



The land of religious freedom

Religion seems to cause more people more problems than anything else. Because the Lord has told everybody who has any religion what to do about his religion, and because what people have felt that they have heard varies widely, people defend their religious beliefs more vehemently than in any other area of life.

And why not? They all feel that they are on a direct assignment from the Lord. There is no higher calling. The problem is that they don't all agree as to what that assignment is.

It seems that more people go crazy over their religious concepts than in any area of life. Or maybe it is that they were crazy anyway and their craziness just happened to settle on religious beliefs. Nevertheless, there

are more people crazy over religion than anything else.

And yet we must allow for all of these differences and what we consider to be strange concepts in religious determination. In religion, as in no other area of life, we must allow for individual interpretation.

And that is what Religious Liberty Sunday is all about. It is June 7. It is sponsored in Mississippi by the Christian Action Commission. Across the nation it is sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

From the words to its national anthem, the United States has become known as the "Land of the free and the home of the brave." And perhaps the main freedom that we are the land of is freedom of religion. The United States Constitution initially had 10

amendments added to it, and one of those amendments, the first one, as a matter of fact, guarantees religious freedom. Perhaps there is freedom of religion here as there is in no other country. At least we know no country has a greater freedom of religion, because ours is complete.

The First Amendment to the Constitution simply says, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

It simply means that the government is not to deal with religion in any way whatsoever. And by the same token, it means that religious bodies are not to dabble in government; for if they were to do so, then the government would be taking a hand in religion.

Those few words have guaranteed us that we will not have to be subject to the government in conducting our religious affairs, and they were put in the Bill of Rights at the insistence of Baptists, who had suffered because of their fierce independence when it came to religion.

Complexities of life make the interpretation of those few words a complicated and misunderstood procedure.

The Constitution does not say that religious bodies are not to be subject to the laws of the land. They are to be so subjected. They must be, or the result would be chaos. The government, however, cannot tell a group that it cannot organize to carry out its religious practices, and it cannot tell

(Continued on page 13)

Guest opinion . . .

Grace: the gift of God

By Elizabeth Lee

God's grace we sing about it. We talk about it. We experience it every second of our lives. Yet, when asked to define it, we are unable to do so. It is something that touches us yet eludes definition. For this very reason, I selected God's grace as my topic for this speakers' tournament.

We use the word grace in several ways: as a lady's name, as a description of a physical beauty and poise, or as that which is said before a meal. But the biblical definition of grace is God's unqualified acceptance of us. His grace bridges the gap between our sinfulness and his holiness. God's grace is the miracle by which we are born again. Ephesians 2:8-9 states: "For by grace are ye saved through

faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; Not of works, lest any man boast." God offers all of us this gift.

To experience God's grace we must accept the gift. If we receive a notice from the post office indicating that we have a package there to claim, but we never go to claim it, then the gift is lost to us.

Scriptures indicate that when we accept the grace of God, we are changed. Paul was a great teacher, but he had a physical infirmity. Paul considered this a "thorn in his flesh" and called upon God to take it away. The Lord denied Paul's request because it was Paul's anchor — it

kept him dependent on Christ. The Lord told him, in II Cor. 12:9 "... My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness ..." Paul answered, "... Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." Thus God's grace is not a magical cure, but it will give us the strength necessary to face problems and to handle discouragement.

Yes, God's grace is a free gift; but, paradoxically, it has a great price. Dietrich Bonhoeffer discussed this paradox of grace in the book, *The Cost of Discipleship*. A German pastor and teacher during Hitler's

rise to power, Bonhoeffer was one of the few Germans who opposed the direction in which Hitler was going. He said that most German Christians did not understand real saving grace, which calls for the response of a committed life. Grace is costly! It cost God his only Son. Bonhoeffer understood the cost of grace. He died at the hands of Hitler for opposing the evil forces that ruled his country.

Real saving grace does bring commitment. The desire to do good works follows the grace of God. Ephesians 2:10 says: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in

them."

Why does God tell us to maintain good works? He does so in order that we may reflect the Lord Jesus Christ. The grace of God is a gift. Luke 12:48 says: "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be must required." God is requiring of us our potential — our capacity. According to what we have received, we are to give an account to God.

Elizabeth Lee is the 17-year-old daughter of Judge and Mrs. Tom S. Lee of Forest. She presented this message as she won the Mississippi Baptist Youth Speakers' Tournament in 1986. She is a member of Forest Baptist Church.

The manuscript was unsolicited.

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Registration scheduled for 28,000 messengers

ST. LOUIS (BP) — Some 400 volunteers will be on hand here June 14-18 to help register an estimated 28,000 messengers expected to attend the 1987 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Our goal is that every messenger be registered in approximately five minutes," said Lee Porter of Nashville, the SBC's registration secretary.

Porter, who has supervised the registration process since being elected in 1978, has participated in registering the messengers at the two largest SBC annual meetings in history, 1985 in Dallas (45,519) and 1986 in Atlanta (40,987). He does not expect the 1987 annual meeting to reach such high figures "because the demand for registration materials has not been as great this year as it has been in the last two years."

Registration will open at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 14, in the registration area on the second floor of the Cervantes Convention Center in St. Louis.

Registration will close at 9:30 p.m. Sunday. It will continue from 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday (June 15-17) and from 8 a.m. until the close of the convention at 5 p.m. Thursday.

"The worst times to register will be during the first hour after we open at 3 p.m. Sunday and on Monday and Tuesday mornings from 8 to 9:30 a.m.," Porter said. "We are expecting to have long lines of people waiting at those times."

He added, however, that the "best times to register" will be from 5 to 6 p.m. and 8 to 9:30 p.m. Sunday and anytime after 9:30 a.m. on Monday and Tuesday. Registration generally slows down after the convention officially begins at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Porter said persons wishing to register should have the registration cards, available from state convention executive officers, and, in some states, from associational directors of missions. The cards should provide the necessary information and be signed

by either the moderator or the clerk of the congregation.

"Most messengers have had cards in recent years," he said. "A decade ago, only about 50 percent of the messengers used the cards, but at the 1986 annual meeting in Atlanta, 98 percent of the messengers had the properly filled out cards. Only about 800 people had to go before the credentials committee because they did not have proper cards."

Those who do go before the committee will have to have either a letter on the letterhead of the church signed by either the moderator or the clerk, or a telegram sent from the local congregation.

He added the Credentials Committee, made up of 25 members appointed by SBC President Adrian P. Rogers, will not meet this year on Sunday afternoon, but will be available only after 8:30 a.m. on Monday. The Credentials Committee chairman is James Bryant, pastor of Grand

(Continued on page 13)

Jerry Rankin named area director in Asia

RICHMOND, Va. — Foreign missionary Jerry Rankin has been named area director for Southern Asia and the Pacific by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The Clinton, Miss., native has most recently been administrator for Southern Baptist mission work in India. He and his wife, the former Bobbye Simmons of Lincoln County, Miss., became missionaries in 1970.



Rankin

The Rankins will live in Bangkok, Thailand, where he will oversee the work of about 440 Southern Baptist missionaries in 17 nations. He is one of nine area directors, all of whom will live on the field under a plan to move more of the decision-making

process closer to the countries it will affect.

Rankin, 45, was first assigned as a field evangelist in East Java, Indonesia, where he worked with new groups of Baptist believers. He worked in Surabaya, Indonesia, from 1979 to 1981.

The Rankins have lived in Bangkok since 1982. From 1982 to 1986 he was an associate area director, acting as a liaison between the board and missionaries in India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Brunei.

Rankin was graduated from Mississippi College in Clinton, and attended Southwestern Seminary where he earned a master of divinity degree in 1969.

The Rankins have two children, Lori Rochelle, 18, and Russell Simmons, 17.

Texas Baptist woman is hostage in Mozambique

By Orville Scott

MAPUTO, Mozambique (BP) — Kindra Bryan, a member of Second Baptist Church in Houston, Tex., is among seven people who were abducted May 13 while setting up a medical clinic in a rural area 400 miles north of here.

U.S. State Department officials said they do not know where the group is being held but feel they were taken hostage by resistance forces known as Renamo.

Bryan, a registered nurse, was thought to be the only American in the group. They are part of Youth With a Mission, headquartered in Hawaii.

Stephen Bradley, minister to single adults at Second Baptist, said Bryan was helping establish a medical clinic and missions station in what government officials called "one of the most suffering areas in the world."

Their leader had gone for supplies and returned to find the rural church, their clinic, and a truck in flames.

Villagers reported five men kidnapped the medical missions team. The villagers said the men talked rough, but no shots were fired.

Bradley said no word had been received on the whereabouts of the hostages, but he praised U.S. congressmen and State Department officials who seem to be doing all that can be done while keeping in touch with the church and Bryan's parents. Mr. and Mrs. Claude Free of College Station, Texas.

Members of the church are praying for Bryan and the other hostages around the clock through their 24-hour-a-day prayer ministry, Bradley said, adding, "We feel confident God is going to do something through her."

Some of the church members have provided financial support for Bryan, who had been serving with Youth With a Mission for about six weeks.

Bryan had expressed concern about the warfare in the area but said she knew it was God's will for her to be there and that she knew he would take care of her, Bradley said.

Bryan was a leader in the MasterLife discipleship program at Second Baptist, he said.

"She has a real heart for people, which comes from her relationship with the Lord," he noted.

Orville Scott writes for Texas Baptists.

SBC registration cards available

Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis who still need registration cards may obtain them from the office of the executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 (phone 968-3800). The cards were slightly revised in 1987.

American missionary will stand trial in Nepal again

WASHINGTON, D. C. (EP) — American missionary Elizabeth Baumann, of Youth With a Mission is returning to Nepal to stand trial on a charge of which she had already been acquitted. Although the case was closed in 1985, a Nepalese law allows it to be reopened, and Baumann has agreed to return.

Baumann, eight other YWAM workers, and 15 Nepalese Christians were arrested in March, 1985, on charges of proselytism and disturbing the peace. Five of the YWAM workers have been sentenced to three years in prison for preaching Christianity; they have appealed that judgment.



Pictured breaking ground for the new BSU center at Ole Miss are Larry Otis, Kenny Gowen, Keith Cating, Thomas West, and Jerry Merriman.

Ole Miss BSU breaks ground

By Melissa Coggins

The Ole Miss Baptist Student Union is preparing to begin construction on a new center. The new building will be located on the site of the old BSU building.

University officials and students gathered May 3 at the BSU center to participate in a groundbreaking ceremony.

Jerry Westbrook, assistant vice-chancellor for student affairs, at the university, expressed appreciation to the BSU for the services it provides to the Ole Miss community.

Larry Otis of the Mississippi Baptist Executive Committee opened the ceremony with the invocation.

Kenny Gowen, chairman of the BSU advisory committee, spoke on the "BSU Past," noting that the Ole Miss BSU has grown from a handful of students in 1928 to a group that no longer can fit into the building.

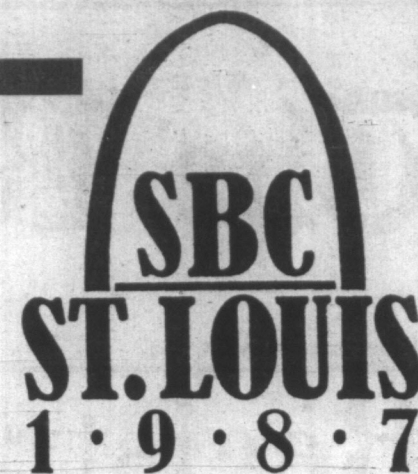
Thomas West, outgoing Ole Miss BSU president, spoke on the "BSU Present."

Keith Cating, BSU director, spoke on the "BSU Future." May 4 was Cating's sixth anniversary at the BSU.

Jerry Merriman, director of student work, MBCB, closed the ceremony with the benediction.

Melissa Coggins is an Ole Miss student.

Evangelists' meeting to "stir up the fires"



ST. LOUIS (BP) — The Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists aims to "stir up the fires of evangelism in the Southern Baptist Convention" when they meet here June 17 in Keil Auditorium.

The conference, composed of about 300 persons involved in full-time vocational evangelism, meets during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. The conference generally meets from 1:15 to 5 p.m. Wednesday. This year, the SBC will meet June 16-18 in Cervantes Convention Center in St. Louis. Wednesday afternoon is an open time in the SBC program.

Rudy Hernandez of San Antonio, president of the COSBE, said the conference will meet five times during the annual meeting of the SBC. In addition to the conference Wednesday afternoon, the group will have a business session and banquet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, and "Afterglow" sessions at 9:30 p.m. on both Tuesday and Wednesday.

With the exception of the conference in Keil Auditorium, all of the other sessions will be held in the Ballroom at the Sheraton Hotel adjacent to the Cervantes Convention Center.

"Each year the state conventions have evangelism conferences in January.

This conference is an evangelism conference in a national setting, held each year with the SBC," Hernandez said.

"We do not have a theme and do not give our speakers a topic to speak about," he said. "We want them to do whatever the Lord leads them to do," he added.

This year, the Wednesday conference session will feature preaching, testimonies, and music from vocational evangelists as well as the presentation of special recognition to four men who have been in vocational evangelism for more than 25 years.

To be honored are Billy Graham and Cliff Barrows, both from Montreat, N.C.; Leonard Sanderson of Pineville, La.; and Melvin Wise of Atlanta.

Main messages will be delivered by former SBC President Bailey E. Smith, now a vocational evangelist from Del City, Okla.; Lewis A. Drummond, the Billy Graham Professor of Evangelism at Southern Seminary; and Jerry Johnston, of Overland Park, Kan., an evangelist who speaks to high school audiences and has written a book on teen suicides.

Evangelists who will give their testimony include Larry Taylor from Bandera, Texas, president of the Conference of Texas Baptist Evangelists; Randall Miller, a black evangelist from Euless, Texas; and Howard Baldwin, from Richmond, Va., who also produced special Sunday School lessons on television.

Musicians include Gary Bradford from Baytown, Texas, who is physical-

ly handicapped; Claude Rhea, president of Palm Beach Atlantic College, West Palm Beach, Fla.; J.J. Turner, a 15-year-old soloist from Carrollton, Ga.; and John McKay, a music evangelist from Fort Worth, and music leader for the 1987 annual meeting of the SBC. Also to be present is Adrian Rogers, president of the SBC and pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, who will bring greetings. A special event during the Wednesday conference will be a 60-voice choir made up entirely of full-time evangelists and directed by Ted Moody, COSBE pastor-advisor and pastor of Central Baptist Church in Warner-Robbins, Ga.

Officers of the COSBE include Hernandez; Henry Linginfelter of Alcoa, Tenn., vice president; Jackson Cox of Milledgeville, Ga., secretary-treasurer; Dick Barrett of Bremen, Ga., music director; Jerry Swimmer of Iuka, Miss., assistant music director; Bob Kendig of Memphis, Tenn., parliamentarian; and Tom McEachin, liaison with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta.

Hernandez said the evangelists also will have a booth in the exhibit area of Cervantes Convention Center. The Wednesday afternoon session is open to all who wish to attend. He added tickets will be required but will be available from all members of the COSBE or at the group's booth. There is space for about 3,500 persons in the Keil Auditorium, he said.

Committee chairman asks for early resolutions

ST. LOUIS (BP) — The chairman of the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention Resolutions Committee has appealed to messengers to send drafts of proposed resolutions to him prior to the annual meeting of the SBC June 16-18 in Cervantes Convention Center.

Tom Melzoni, committee chairman and pastor of Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, Tenn., said having advance copies of resolutions messengers intend to submit to the convention will enable his 10-member

committee to do more preliminary work before convention sessions begin.

Drafts of proposed resolutions should be sent to Melzoni in care of the SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce, Nashville, Tenn. 37203.

Melzoni emphasized that messengers who send proposed resolutions to the committee before the convention also must submit official copies for introduction at the convention.

Lunch?

Golden Gate luncheon June 17

The alumni and friends luncheon for Golden Gate Seminary will take place June 17 at one p.m. in the Promenade Ballroom of Adam's Mark Hotel in St. Louis, six blocks from Cervantes Convention Center where the Southern Baptist Convention will take place.

William Crews, new president of

Golden Gate, will be the speaker. Commendations will be presented.

Advance tickets are \$14 if ordered by May 29. Tickets bought at the seminary exhibit will be \$17. Write Alumni office, Golden Gate Seminary, Strawberry Point, Mill Valley, Calif., 94941-3197. Make checks payable to the school's alumni association.

Vestal clarifies immorality statement

MIDLAND, Texas (BP) — Peace Committee member Daniel Vestal, who in February issued a stinging denouncement of political coalitions in the Southern Baptist Convention, has issued a statement clarifying his remarks.

Vestal, pastor of First Church here, met as a Peace Committee member Feb. 18 with Baptist journalists. He told the writers that political coalitions in the denomination are "inappropriate" and "immoral" and will "destroy" the convention.

Vestal sent "A Statement of Clarification" to Baptist Press.

The three paragraph statement says:

"In February I made a statement to Baptist Press in which I said: 'There is a Pressler-Patterson coalition. There are some of us who feel that this kind of coalition has no place in Southern Baptist politics. I think all of us recognize that there is politics in the convention. If you vote, that is politics. There is a sharing of influence, and that is politics.'

"Many of us believe that the emergence of this (Pressler-Patterson) coalition, which spawned another coalition (Sherman-Chafin-Slatton-Cavender) is not only inappropriate politics but is immoral."

"It has come to my attention that this statement has caused some to feel

grief and anguish. Although I believed then and believe now that the coalition politics described in my statement are wrong, it was not my intention then, nor my intention now, to imply that men who have engaged in these politics are immoral. I do not consider them as immoral men but love and value them as Christian brothers."

Vestal told Baptist Press the statement "really came from my heart. It is a sincere effort on my part to be reconciling and peacemaking. I am not doing it under any kind of external pressure, either from the Peace Committee or from any individual outside the Peace Committee."

Jackson replaced, pre-SBC 'Baptist Hours'

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Richard Jackson has been replaced as the preacher of the Baptist Hour, aired on the ACTS television network, until after the Southern Baptist Convention, June 16-18, because of speculation he will be nominated for president of the SBC.

Charles Redmond, pastor of Sulphur Springs First Church, in Texas, has announced he will nominate Jackson for the SBC presidency. Jackson, who has been

the Baptist Hour preacher since the program became part of the ACTS format in March of 1986, said he requested the change to avoid any criticism of ACTS or the Radio and Television Commission.

Two Baptist Hour programs are telecast by ACTS. Jackson preached for the evening program broadcast each Sunday at 9 p.m. central time; Peter James Flamming, pastor of First Baptist Church of Richmond, Va., preached for the other broadcast,

at noon Central time.

Jackson will be replaced by Joe Ford, co-pastor of the North Phoenix congregation.

Jackson told the Baptist Standard: "I am grieved that we have such a political atmosphere, but I have thought through that someone might be critical of ACTS or the Radio and Television Commission and have asked that I be removed after May 17 until after the convention."

Southern's reunion set for St. Louis

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The annual alumni and friends reunion of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, has been scheduled for June 17 at 1 p.m. in the St. Louis Ballroom of the Adam's Mark Hotel. The luncheon is held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in

St. Louis, Mo.

Tickets are \$10 if purchased prior to May 30 or \$14 after that date. To purchase tickets, send a self-addressed stamped envelope and check payable to Southern Seminary to: Alumni Relations, Southern Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280.

Ministers' wives to meet June 16

"Blooming Where you are Planted," is the title of the luncheon of the Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives organization to take place June 16 during the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis.

The meeting will take place at the Sheraton St. Louis Ballroom at Con-

vention Plaza, 910 North Seventh Street.

Featured speaker will be Susan Baker, wife of U.S. Treasury Secretary, James Baker.

Tickets ordered before June 6 are \$12; at convention booth, \$14. Write for tickets to Karen Hayner, 203 Whitehall Way, Cary, N.C. 27511.

Missions board logs 5,000 calls

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The number of telephone calls in one week to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's PrayerLine topped 5,000 for the first time during the first week of May.

PrayerLine is toll-free from 49 states. The number is 1-800-ALL-

SEEK (1-800-255-7335). In Virginia, a toll call is needed, 1-804-355-6581.

PrayerLine is open around the clock, seven days a week. Anyone who experiences difficulty dialing PrayerLine is asked to alert the Foreign Mission Board during its regular office hours.

Alliance talks 'supplement,' not 'split,' during meeting

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP) — Southern Baptist Alliance members talked more of supplementing the work of their denomination than splitting from it during their first national meeting.

Widely criticized as a potential vehicle that could carry disgruntled moderates out of the Southern Baptist Convention, the alliance focused instead on denominational heritage when about 400 members gathered at Meredith College here, May 14-15.

But the alliance voted without dissent to create four task forces to look into "problem" areas of Southern Baptist life. Three of those can have direct impact on denominational organizations:

— Educational literature. The alliance force will study the feasibility of producing Christian educational materials to be used within local congregations. If developed, these products would be in direct competition with materials produced by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

This task force is "overdue as of last fall," said Cecil Sherman, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

At that time, the Sunday School Board published a series of Sunday School lessons that moderates said provided a too-narrow interpretation of Genesis. Several moderate churches returned their materials to the board, expressing displeasure with content they claimed catered to fundamentalists.

"I would say literature is our big concern," said Henry Crouch, alliance president and pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C. "The fundamentalists have said they wanted parity, but what they (the Sunday School Board) have done is stop publishing our literature. We're not going to have that literature coming in to our churches."

Of the Sunday School Board and its relationship to moderates, Crouch said, "At this point, they act like they don't want us."

— Women in ministry. This task force particularly will study ways the alliance can help mission churches who call women as pastors.

This issue was precipitated by a decision the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board made last fall to deny Church Pastoral Assistance funds to mission churches with female pastors. Alliance members failed in an effort to get that decision appealed during the board's March meeting.

Crouch told the alliance's board of directors he has received "many letters" since the organization was launched Feb. 12, particularly "pleas for help from the field."

"We could not let this convocation go by without organizing a task force... to help people" who might not qualify for the Home Mission Board's financial supplements, he said.

— Religious liberty. This group will work to secure separation of church and state from encroachment by both religious groups and government.

This endeavor currently is the responsibility of the Baptist Joint

Committee on Public Affairs, a coalition of nine Baptist bodies, including the SBC. The BJCPA has been under fire from more conservative Southern Baptists, particularly for opposing the School Prayer Amendment and for not supporting anti-abortion measures. Changes in the composition of the BJCPA will be presented to messengers to the SBC annual meeting June 16-18.

The religious liberty task force was not originally proposed by the alliance committee that presented the task forces. But participants unanimously endorsed a proposal by Henry Green of Cocoa, Fla., to create the group.

— Placement. This service will help like-minded ministers locate in congregations which generally share the alliance's views. It also will help moderate Southern Baptists who move to locate sympathetic congregations in their new home communities.

Unlike the other three task forces, the placement group does not overlap responsibilities with any Southern Baptist organization. Alliance members affirmed its value, however, citing the need for "networking" among ministers and laypeople seeking to affiliate with Southern Baptists of similar viewpoints.

In addition to the task forces, the alliance approved without dissent a motion to express appreciation for a document titled "A Pastoral Plea for Peace Among Southern Baptists."

The four-part theological statement was sponsored by four Southern Baptist pastors who claimed no affiliation with either group in the convention's theological/political controversy. However, many of the 100-plus published signers of the document are known to be associated with the moderate cause.

In addition to the "Pastoral Plea," the alliance has its own seven-part "covenant." It commits members to freedom of the individual, freedom of the local church, the larger body of Christ, the servant role of leadership, theological education, the proclamation of Christ, and the principle of a free church in a free state.

In other matters:

— The alliance's four officers,

selected by the founding temporary board of directors this spring, were elected to one-year terms. They are Crouch, president; Susan Lockwood Wright, pastor of Cornell Baptist Church in Chicago, first vice president; Richard Groves, pastor of Wake Forest Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., secretary; and Bruce Morgan, pastor of First Baptist Church of Greenville, S.C., treasurer.

The board of directors also was empowered to elect a second vice president, to be a layperson.

— A constitution and bylaws for the new organization was approved without dissent. Directors were asked to work out details of proposed changes in the fledgling document and present those amendments to the group next spring.

— Alliance members gathered in state or regional groups to select members for the organization's first permanent board and to make plans for organizing the alliance on state or regional levels.

The alliance has 800 individual members from 28 states, Crouch said, noting 70 percent of those members are laypeople. In addition, eight churches with a total of 4,000 members have joined. Alliance leaders hope the organization will include 2,000 individual members by mid-May of next year, he added.

Communists plan to eliminate missionaries

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (EP) — An intelligence unit of the Philippine Ministry of National Defense has warned that NPA communist guerilla liquidation squads plan to eliminate all anti-communist leaders, according to an indigenous missionary leader on Mindanao Island in the Philippines.

Christian leaders, pastors and missionaries have been urged to take special care, according to reports received by Christian Aid, a mission agency helping 33 works in the Philippines. Filipino church leaders say the killings have already begun.

Construction begins at Carey-on-the-Coast

GULFPORT — Ground-breaking ceremonies were held May 21, at William Carey College on the Coast for renovation of nine existing classrooms and the construction of a 300-seat conference center. This marks the last step toward completion of Phase 1 of the master plan for the Gulfport campus. The center is scheduled for completion by the fall semester in August.

The conference center will be available for year-round meetings and classes. Professional Food Service Management will also be adding cafeteria and catering services at Carey on the Coast with construction of the conference center.

In addition, a soccer field is now

under construction as a part of the first phase of growth. It is planned for completion for the fall season.

Other improvements made through Phase 1 have included completion of 96 apartments, construction of the Sarah E. Gillespie Art Gallery, renovations of classrooms and the swimming pool, and reconstruction of the pier on the Mississippi Sound.

With the completion of these new renovations and construction, \$3 million will have been spent at Carey on the Coast over the past two years, including \$2.2 million in new buildings, \$500,000 on renovations, and \$300,000 for the latest classroom renovations and the new conference center.

Smith named editor for new commentary

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The general editor for a new multi-volume commentary to be published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman division will be Michael A. Smith, chief editor of general religious books in the Broadman products department.

Smith will oversee editing of the commentary with the first volume expected to be released in 1991.

Smith, 33, an employee of the board since 1985, holds the master of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He has been pastor of four churches, including Bellevue Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn., from 1983-1985.

The commentary, which was approved in February by the board's trustees, will use writers who are biblical inerrantists.

The "Baptist Faith and Message" will be the doctrinal guideline for editing the commentary, as it is for all other Broadman books. The "Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy" developed by the International Council on Biblical Inerrancy will be the guideline for defining inerrancy.

The first volume of the commentary should be released in time for the 1991 Southern Baptist Convention meeting and release of the final volume is planned by 1995 or earlier if possible, Clark said.

A SWORD IN HER SOUL A novel based on the story of Mary, mother of Jesus, by Carroll Gillis, retired Southern Baptist missionary. Mary's everyday life, her joys and fears, her concern for Jesus as he faces hostile Jewish religionists, her sorrow at his death and her joy in his resurrection, are treated by Dr. Gillis with sympathy and understanding. Order from SUNBURST PRESS, Box 3129, Pacoima, CA 91331. Paperback \$7.95; clothbound, \$15.95. Add \$1 for handling. Refund if not satisfied.

This announcement is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of offers to buy any of these securities. The offering is made only by Prospectus.

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Jackson County

Bailey Smith Crusade: 910 professions of faith

By George Berger

Jackson County Baptist Association recently completed a Bailey Smith Real Evangelism Crusade with more than 910 professing faith in Christ and 300 rededications. This was a cooperative effort of the churches as they planned for two years for the crusade. Bailey Smith preached, John McKay sang, and Rick Gage was the youth evangelist. Co-chairmen for the crusade were Albert Wilkerson, pastor of Parkway Church and Norris Faggard, a layman from First Church, Moss Point. D. A. Patt, associate pastor at Calvary church, Pascagoula, served as arrangements and usher chairman. The crusade was held at War Memorial Stadium in Pascagoula.

Reaction has been overwhelmingly positive to the crusade.

Kenna Byrd, pastor at Hurley, said, "I was well pleased. In over 20 years in this area it was the first organized and followed up. It was better for us than a local church revival even

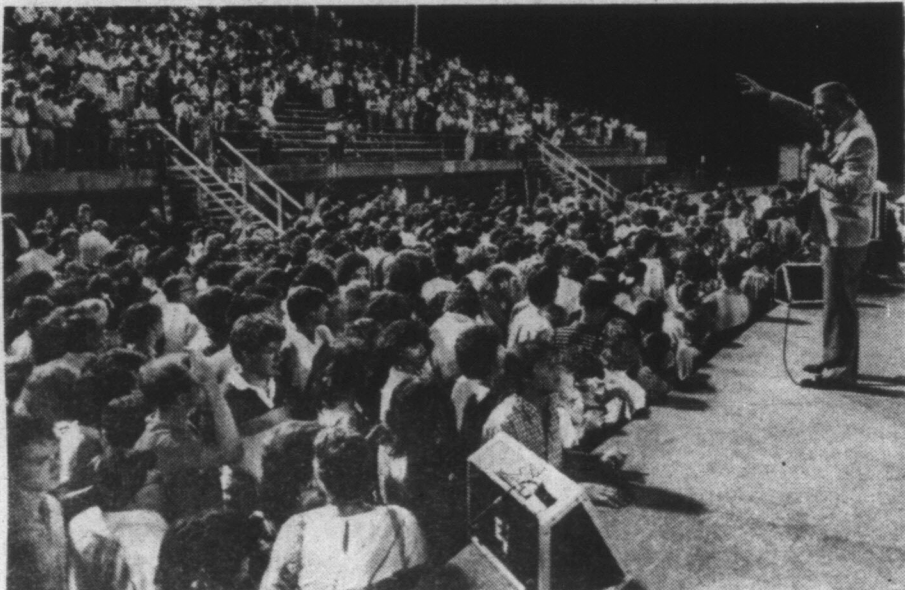
though we were 20 miles away from the stadium."

A pizza blast was held on Tuesday night. Free pizza was served to more than 2,500 teenagers. Rick Gage addressed them before the crusade, and David Stanley, step-brother of Elvis Presley, addressed the entire meeting at 7 p.m. More professions of faith were recorded that night than any other.

Counseling was handled by 250 counselors trained by Don Boone and J. T. Hannaford. The finance and budget committee was chaired by Charles Persons of Wade Church.

Prayer teams were led by Kenny Goff, pastor of Four Mile Creek Church while Murphy Young, youth director of Parkway Church, handled all youth activities. Music coordination was directed by Mark Walker of Riverside Church.

George Berger is pastor, Calvary, Pascagoula.



Bailey Smith preaches in Pascagoula.

First Super Summer coming to Clinton

Mississippi Baptists' first ever Super Summer will take place Aug. 4-7 at Mississippi College in Clinton.

The program is designed for high school students in grades 10-12 who are interested in "the how-tos of sharing their faith, personal quiet time, scripture memory, and developing relationships," according to promotional materials. Cost is \$95 per person.

In addition to the training for the youths, there will be an adult institute for youth ministers, lay youth workers, parents, or anyone interested in working with youths. Also, one adult team leader for every 10 students will be required. There is mandatory team leader training beginning on Aug. 2. For team leader information, contact the MCB Church Training Department.

Sue McAllister of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, says that Super Summer is basically an evangelism school "for kids who are really interested in

growing in their faith...and for parents of youths and youth workers who want to be better equipped to work with young people." McAllister is on the committee which put together this event.

Charlie Baker, pastor of Southern Hills Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla., will be camp pastor; a three man group called Gabriel will lead music; and Dave Bennett of the Home Mission Board will lead the adult program.

The program ends just before Youth Night at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson which takes place the evening of Aug. 7. Featured speaker will be Harold Morris, author of "Twice Pardoned," humor by Hicks and Cohagen, and music by Gabriel.

For registration information, write Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Super Summer Mississippi, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205., phone 968-3800. Registration will be limited to approximately 600.

Devotional

The life of joy!

By Donnie Guy
Philippians 4:6, 7

Benjamin Franklin once said, "Nothing is certain in this life but death and taxes." If that were so, mankind would find itself in a terrible fix. Out of respect to Ole Ben, I will not attack his statement, but simply say that, as a Christian, I am certain of a lot more things than death and taxes.



Guy

One of the main things I am certain of is that a Christian can have a life of joy, in the midst of trouble, but first, we must determine what joy really is. Is it a "ha ha, I don't have a care in the world" attitude? No! Can it be the feeling I have at a football game? If it is, then everyone could have it, whether saved or lost. What then is it? Simply put, it is the peace of God.

In Philippians 4:7, Paul says, "And the peace which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Paul's life of joy, even in the midst of all his trials and troubles, came out of the fact that he had peace with God. This is the secure mind! Knowing that, no matter if the world is against you and everything seems to go wrong, everything between you and God is all right. This is joy! How does one develop the secure mind?

First, we must pray right! (Philippians 4:6). The Christian is never to worry about circumstances or troubles, but is to pray. To worry is to sin! The opposite of peace is worry, so what should we do? Pray! About what, you may ask? About everything. Paul was not sitting in that prison cell wringing his hands in despair. He was praying (1:4). One of our most popular hymns says, "Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry, everything to God in prayer." Peace comes through prayer.

Second, we must think right! (Philippines 4:8). One of the tools the devil uses to rob us of joy is to get our thoughts off of what God is doing for us and let them dwell on what the world is doing to us. James tells us to resist the devil and he will flee from us. (James 4:7). The best way to resist the devil, with your mind, is to do what Paul says in verse 8. Think of godly things.

Last, we must do right! (Philippians 4:9). Paul states that obedience brings peace. When I was a young boy, I broke my dad's windshield while hitting rocks with a stick. Not knowing how it had happened (for I certainly had not told him), my dad was content in thinking the heat had caused the windshield to break, and so he had the windshield repaired. Although the car was fixed, every time I saw it my conscience would hurt. I never had any peace until, after about three weeks of living like that, I went to my dad and confessed. Now I hurt in a different place, but I sure felt better in my heart and mind. Simply put, we can never have peace with God until we obey the word of God.

What happens when we learn to pray right, think right, and do right? "The peace of God . . . keeps our hearts and minds," which, my friend, produces the life of joy!

Donnie Guy, Biloxi, is engaged in evangelistic ministry.

Court rejects certification challenge

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Supreme Court has left standing a lower court ruling that a state law requiring all teachers — parochial as well as public — to hold teaching certificates does not violate constitutional protections of religious freedom.

In a May 18 order, the high court refused to review a divided opinion of the Michigan Supreme Court upholding a 1921 law requiring teacher certification in all elementary and secondary schools in the state. The statute specifically mentions "private, denominational, and parochial" schools. It further authorizes the state superintendent of public instruction to close down schools that refuse to comply with the teacher certification requirement.

Two church-operated schools in Michigan operated by unaffiliated Baptist churches ran afoul of the law when they refused eight years ago to submit forms required by the state to demonstrate they met the certification provision. In July 1980, the Michigan attorney general began administrative proceedings to suspend the schools' operation. (86-1560, Sheridan Road Baptist Church v. Michigan Department of Education)

Cleveland man elected to national post

Bob Nance, chairman of the Delta ACTS Board of Cleveland, has been elected as first President of the National ACTS Affiliates Association at the annual National ACTS Affiliates conference held in Fort Worth.



Nance

The ACTS Satellite Network is composed of 270 cable and broadcast affiliates across the nation which produce and insert locally-produced programs into the ACTS Network programming schedule.

As president of the organization Nance will be responsible for the association's Network relations and communications among affiliates. Mike Wright, vice-president of cable relations for the ACTS Satellite Network said "Our hope is that the National ACTS affiliates association will help expand the partnership arrangement between local ACTS boards and the Network as well as be a tremendous help in the overall effort to bring ACTS to a more viable position as a programming delivery service for Southern Baptists."

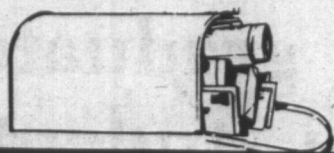
The ACTS Satellite Network is a television programming service of the Radio and TV Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

There never was a person who did anything worth doing that did not receive more than he gave. — Henry Ward Beecher



Mississippians at ACTS awards

Pictured with Jimmy Allen, president of the ACTS television network, are left to right, Brian Williams from First Church in Hattiesburg; Farrell Blankenship, director of broadcast services for the MCB; Allen; Steve Guidry, media minister at Calvary Church in Jackson; Bob Nance, chairman of Delta ACTS Board in Cleveland; and Rusty Holcomb, media minister at First Church in Cleveland. These were among Mississippians at the ACTS awards.



Letters to the editor



Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld.

Laborers needed

Editor:

Our church is going to be involved in a building program this summer. As we are few in number, we would very much appreciate your sending any laborers that would be available to come to Meeker, located high in the Rocky Mountains, in northwest Colorado.

For more information, please contact White River Southern Baptist Church, Box 961, Meeker, Co. 81641.

Rex Newkirk, pastor

Sixty years for Parkway

Editor:

We would like to seek your help in sharing the news of the 60th anniversary of Parkway Church, Jackson, with people throughout our state.

In May 1927, a tent revival was held on Parkway's present location. On July 3, 1927, 55 people came together to charter Parkway Baptist Church. Sixty years later Parkway continues to be one of the leading Bible preaching, evangelistic, mission-hearted churches in our community. Parkway continues to be a growing, vibrant, spiritual force. We believe strongly that God has called Parkway to make a real difference in our city and state. Parkway wants to be a shining example of what can be done when God is given total control.

Our 60th year anniversary celebration will culminate with a day of activities on May 31. The highlight of the day will not be to recognize Parkway for what it has already accomplished for God but rather to initiate a campaign to purchase a missionary home. Each Parkway member is being asked to contribute a significant amount toward the Parkway missionary home fund. This is the spirit of Parkway, not to receive, but to give.

The main activities will be during the evening service scheduled for 7 p.m., May 31.

Jehu Brabham

administrative assistant

The great task

Editor:

As the time of the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis nears, I, a layman, a deacon for 36 years in five different churches, and a former denominational worker for 26 years, would like to attempt to contribute to harmony in our denomination. The Christian influences on my life from my father and my brother, both of whom were Baptist preachers for more than 50 years, plus the influence of many others, preachers and lay persons, have helped me to become a great believer in Christ as Saviour and Lord and in the Bible as the inspired, authentic and reliable Word of God to man.

The controversy among Southern Baptists is not a source of happiness to any of us. The only person who is happy about it is the devil, himself, for he wants us to be divided. He wants us to fight among ourselves. Surely all

of us, on whatever "side" we are, agree that Christ is displeased whenever there are divisions and conflicts in any of his churches or in conventions representing his churches. This is not to say that he expects all of us to agree on everything, but he expects us, in fact he commands us to love, truly love, one another in spite of our differences.

What I believe and feel about what is going on in our beloved denomination would fill a book; but, in closing, let me say that I am praying that I and every other Southern Baptist, especially those who lead and those who follow in the imminent meeting of our convention, will stop being critical and condemnatory toward one another and in Christian agape love, join together once again in the great task Christ has given us to his, not our, praise and glory!

Charles W. Horner

Jackson

Significant title

Editor:

The title of the song, "Family of God," is very significant. Contrary to what one may think, you do NOT have to die first to become a member of the "family of God"!

If a person so chooses he can become a part of the family of God while living as a Christian on earth. Later, in heaven, he will continue to be a member of the family of God!

To become a part of the great family of God is very simple: Get ahold of a copy of the Bible; read it; in a church — get together with other people who read the Bible; study; and follow the teachings of Jesus.

If you decide to accept Jesus as your personal Savior and Lord, you instantly become a part of the "family of God." Only GOD and YOU know in your heart if you are a Christian. It's that simple.

I believe as a member of the "family of God" you will immediately enjoy the love and peace of heaven while living on earth!

Robert S. Leigh

Jackson

Prevention better than cure

Editor:

Much concern is being expressed concerning the possible epidemic of the deadly AIDS virus in this country. Scientists are frantically searching for cures. The media, schools, churches, and other organizations have resorted to promoting the use of condoms as a preventive measure.

This concern is justified because the virus is deadly and fast moving. However, I feel that more attention should be directed toward encouraging continence. The participation in sexual activities outside the marriage and through infidelity is in itself a killer even though social diseases may not be contracted. Promiscuity has caused the light to go out of many young people's faces and the joy to go out of their hearts. Their low self-

esteem because of this has caused them to use drugs and alcohol and to commit suicide.

Infidelity is a major contributor in the high divorce rate in this county. If one would take a close look into the faces of the innocent children who are products of broken homes due to infidelity, it would seem that continence and self control would have been much easier. If the young Marines who were entrusted with our nation's security were given another chance, would they degrade themselves, their families, and their country; or would they abstain?

If the evangelist who was entrusted with thousands of dollars donated by many who could only give the "widow's mite" could recall these moments of passion, would he become a stumbling block to the many babes in Christ and the many who have not yet accepted him?

I realize that sin has caused this terrible disease and that much time and money will now be required to find a cure. However, there is a Great Physician on duty 24 hours a day who is willing to help prevent this disease at no charge.

Mrs. John Rayborn

Hattiesburg, MS

Appointees from other seminaries

Editor:

This is in response to the letter regarding the new policy of allowing graduates from non-Southern Baptist seminaries to be considered for appointment by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

When the Lord calls someone into full time mission work but does not open the door for them to go to a Southern Baptist institution, does this make them any less effective for Christ?

In the same context, John, in Luke 9:49-50, was answered by our Lord, "Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us."

Some of the godliest men I know are students at Reformed Theological Seminary, and I don't understand how or why any foreign mission board would turn one of them away.

I feel it is time for all Christians to pull together for the common cause and not be divided by denominational boundaries.

Let's pray this new policy will help spread the gospel by sending more Christians to the mission field.

Pete Trussell

Jackson

The change in the Foreign Mission Board policy to allow other than students from Southern Baptist seminaries to be appointed by the board did not open the door to appointments of those of other denominations. They still must be Southern Baptists. And now that they might come from other than Southern Baptist seminaries, there will be other considerations prior to appointment.

All of this is not, and has not been, an attempt to cut down on the number of people being appointed to mission fields but to assure that those who are appointed do at least to some degree adhere to doctrines held by those who will be paying for them to go. That is the reason that there was an in-

sistence on appointees spending at least some time at a Southern Baptist seminary. There never was a policy statement ruling out the graduates of other seminaries.

Other seminaries

Editor:

I was outraged over the letter from the pastor who was disturbed about the Foreign Mission Board's policy of considering graduates of non-Southern Baptist Seminaries for appointment. Has it come to the point in our denomination that a person has to have pedigree papers in order to serve the Lord?

Yes, I have been called of God to minister. Yes, I have attended two SBC seminaries. Yes, I am a graduate of a Mississippi Baptist college. Yes, I will be graduated this month from a non-SBC seminary. Am I an "official" Southern Baptist? Am I orthodox?

I feel more Southern Baptist today than the day I registered for school at this non-SBC school, because I have had a more rounded and open education. I would not trade my experience for anything! Yes, I have a solid SBC background. I have served five SBC churches on staff. I also had a solid, Bible-believing pastor for many years in my home church who taught what it meant to be a Christian and a good Southern Baptist. I would not change any of my training!

Also, many people who surrender to missions do so only after they have completed seminary. Many do not know that they will be serving as missionaries until much later. Are we to tell them that their education is no good? God forbid!

If it comes to the place in our denomination that a minister must prove his loyalty to the SBC by his diploma and degrees, I will find another denomination to serve. I know many ministers with SBC degrees who have made themselves unworthy of ministry service because of more serious circumstances.

Mike Davis

Charleston

The Foreign Mission Board has never failed to appoint missionary candidates who were graduates of non-Southern Baptist seminaries if they measured up in all other qualifications. They did insist on additional training at a Southern Baptist seminary simply because it would be money from all Southern Baptists who would be paying for them to go. That requirement has been dropped. — Editor

Ministry to missionaries

Editor:

Thank you for the complimentary subscription to the Baptist Record provided missionaries. This subscription helps us keep up with the news from back home. We have received letters alluding to events that have happened without filling in the details of what actually occurred, but your paper helps fill in those blank spots. I would like to encourage those in the States to remember that we do not know about the news of the church or community, but would LOVE to know about it. Receiving mail in the States was special, but being here in

language school, mail takes on a new meaning altogether.

If I could write a letter to every Baptist in Mississippi it would be to thank them for their prayers. While I was serving at Holmes Junior College in Goodman, and First Baptist, Durant, we had missionaries come frequently. They all talked about the power of prayer, and it almost became commonplace to hear a missionary talk about what prayer had done on the mission field. I would like to tell you that through prayer our year at language school has gone smoothly; an illness of my daughter was made well without need of an operation; my family was saved from a disastrous undertow in the sea; and probably most important of all, we have seen a young Chinese Buddhist girl come to know Jesus as her Lord and Savior!! If I could say just one thing, that thing would be PRAY in season and out, thanking God for what he is doing on our mission fields!

I just wanted to take this opportunity to say "Thank you" for your ministry to us here at language school in San Jose, Costa Rica. We will be going on to Argentina in August and hope we will be able to get the paper there, too. May God continue to richly bless you in your ministry.

The Costa Rican Carters

Rick & Nedra Carter,

John-Richard (9), Rebekah (8), and Marie (4)

"Don't mess up"

Editor:

I was interested in your article "Don't Mess With Us," on the editorial page. As my husband and I were going through Texas to Arizona on a volunteer mission we also saw the sign, "Don't Mess With Texas."

We agree with you wholeheartedly that Mississippi should borrow the slogan from Texas and that churches and other organizations should adopt a section of highway and roads in the country. However we would like to see one change made. Instead of being "Don't Mess With Mississippi," have the slogan read, "Don't Mess Up Mississippi." Sounds a little more friendly, don't you agree?

Thanks for listening.

Catherine Heranney

Hollandale

Very good idea — Editor

A committed Southern Baptist

Editor:

On May 7 you printed a letter from Dale Little, pastor of Springdale Church. Mr. Little protests the new FMB policy regarding consideration of non-SBC controlled seminary graduates for appointment to the FMB. As a graduate of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary (a non SBC controlled seminary) please allow me to address Mr. Little and those like him.

First, a seminary degree is only one of hundreds of items the FMB uses to (Continued on page 12)

Faces And Places

by anne washburn mc williams

From 4,000 to 89,277

"Everyone Needs a Mrs. Evie Goodrich." That was the title of the article Kevin Jones wrote for the South-West Sun of April 23, a week or two after I did a column on Mrs. Goodrich's 90th birthday. It was quite an interesting article about Mrs. Goodrich and her 74 years in Clinton, and I fully agreed with the title. The writer was quoting Betty Whitlock, who told him how much Mrs. Goodrich had meant to her and her family.

Evie Goodrich's Christianity shines through her daily life. Kevin quoted

her as saying, "All I do is like people without regard to ages. I try to be nice to them. Some come to me for a little help when they're in trouble. People just do. It's natural."

"I try to do the little things and, sometimes, the big things. You've got to be positive, sympathetic when they come. It takes time . . ."

"I don't want to end up a nuisance of an old person. You see some that are hard, nothing pleases them. I'm not going to be like that."

"I get sad, but I don't stay sad. It has to be will power. I like living. It's as simple as that."

When I took her a copy of the article, she gave me a quart of chicken soup for our supper.

While her husband, Dr. A. L. Goodrich, was editor of the Baptist Record, he implemented the Every Family Plan, which boosted the circulation during his 14 years with the paper from 4,000 to 89,277. Present circulation is 120,968.

Italian Cream Cake

In February, I went to the Baptist Indian Center at Philadelphia one day to interview Lee Bacon and Calvin Isaac, Choctaws who are engaged in the preparation of Sunday School lesson quarterlies for Indians. Mama went along with me. Lee Bacon, interim director of missions for New Choctaw Association, served us coffee and a terrific Italian Cream Cake. He said that cooking is one of his hobbies, and that he baked this cake himself. Here is his recipe:

1 stick oleo
1/2 cup Crisco

2 cups sugar
5 eggs
2 tsp. vanilla
2 cups flour (plain)
1 tsp. soda
1 cup buttermilk
1 small can coconut
1 cup pecans (chopped)

Cream oleo, Crisco, and sugar together. Then add egg yolks one at a time, beating after adding each one, until smooth. Add flour and soda alternately with buttermilk; then add coconut and pecans.

Beat egg whites until they peak;

then fold into the batter. Divide into three 9-inch pan and bake at 350 degrees for about 28 minutes. Completely cook on rack.

Icing

1/2 stick oleo
1 8-oz. package of Cream Cheese
1 box confectioner's sugar
1 tsp. vanilla

Beat all of the above. Then after cake cools, ice each layer. After each, put pecans. When completely iced, puts pecans on top and sides.

Southwestern graduates 27 Mississippi students

FORT WORTH, Texas — The largest graduating class in the history of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary included 27 from Mississippi.

In spring commencement ceremonies May 15, Southwestern Seminary graduated three times the number of students enrolled in the average American seminary.

President Russell Dilday conferred 503 degrees, making the spring class Southwestern's largest ever. The largest previous class was 489 in May 1984.

Thomas Corts, president of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., delivered the address on the "mantle of accountability" graduates must carry in ministry.

Those with Mississippi connections who received degrees include:

Billy Wright Bowie, Lambert, master of music, who will serve as volunteer minister of music and worship at McCart Meadows Baptist Church, Fort Worth; Shari Lynn Polk, Prentiss, master of arts in religious education; James Ray Moore, McComb, master of divinity;

Joe Turner Lusby, Tupelo, master of divinity; Harral Edward Landry Jr., master of divinity; Philip Jay Pearson, Kosciusko, master of arts in religious education; John Thomas Meadors, Jackson, master of divinity; John Orin Langworthy, Pascagoula, master of music; Sean Paul Keith of Florida (whose wife Pamela Jean, is from Amory) master of arts in religious education; Tracy Carol Simmons, Ellisville, master of arts in religious education;

James Foster Yates Jr., Yazoo City, master of arts in religious education; James William Shannon, Abbeville, master of music; Charles Richard Waller, Oxford, master of arts in religious education; David Thomas Wills, Clinton, master of arts in religious education;

Clarence Otis Herchenhahn Jr., Hattiesburg, master of arts in religious education; Joe Weideman Armour Jr., Byhalia, master of divinity and religious education; Patricia Lea Atkinson (from Osyka — her husband, Thomas Dale Atkinson, is from Summit), who will serve as counselor at New Life Children's Services, Houston, Tex.;

Marinell Carrothers, Gulfport, master of arts in religious education; Teresa Diane Dickens, Saucier, master of divinity; James M. Ely, of Myrtle, master of divinity and religious education, who will serve as pastor of Trinity Church, Seminole, Okla.;

Paul Howard Gray, Tupelo, master of arts in communication; Charles Michael Armstrong, Southaven, master of arts in religious education; Robert Burgess Barton Jr., Yazoo City, master of arts in church social services degree (he will serve as downtown neighborhood missions associate at Tarrant Baptist Association, Fort Worth);

James Byron Cummins, Jackson, master of arts in religious education; Carla Renee DuBose, Hattiesburg, master of arts in religion education; Haskell Loy Seal Jr., Brandon, master of arts in religious education; Robert William Loomis, Biloxi, master of arts in religious education.

Missionary answers call to dig pit toilets

FARAFENNI, The Gambia (BP) — Putting in pit toilets may not be glamorous work, but Southern Baptist missionary Chris Austin feels that is exactly what God has called him to do here in western Africa.

The missionary from New Orleans and his 10-man team of helpers are proficient pit toilet installers. They have put in 300 of them in the past two years as part of a public health program that includes installation of water wells, instruction in gardening, and health screening.

As Austin talks with area residents about public health, he also tells the staunch Muslims how a Savior named Jesus can solve the needs of their spiritual health. The New Life in Jesus Baptist Church which Austin and his wife, Karen, have started is comprised only of his 10 workers he has led to faith in Christ. But their steadily maturing Christian faith holds promise for future growth.

Baptist work has gone slowly in The Gambia and neighboring Senegal because of Islam's presence. Although Southern Baptist missionaries have work in the Serekunda area near Banjul, the capital on the coast, most believers there are from other African nations. Austin's workers are Gambians.

A sliver of a country smaller than Connecticut, The Gambia is surrounded by much larger Senegal on Africa's western coast. The country stretches about 300 miles along both sides of the Gambia River but is only 15 to 30 miles wide. The Gambia sprang into American consciousness several years ago when author Alex Haley's book, "Roots," was published, followed by the television miniseries. The tale's opening chapter on Haley's ancestor was set in

the tiny Gambian village of Juffure.

The Gambia is a poor country. In rural areas, half of all children die before the age of 7, Austin says. Most die from diseases that elsewhere are successfully treated: measles, pneumonia, malaria. Polio and meningitis still are common. But chronic malnutrition often makes these diseases worse.

Ignorance also is a factor. When a baby has measles, mothers often wrap the baby warmly, despite the intensely hot climate, and lay the baby out in the sun.

"Most babies are healthy till they're about 4 to 6 months old," Austin reports. "When they start eating solid food, they go down, because they drink dirty water and eat dirty food."

Limited medical facilities are available, but 80 percent of the total national healthcare budget goes for the support of just two hospitals. Even if more physicians were available, they would wind up treating the same patients repeatedly because so much sickness is caused by poor sanitation and dirty water. One physician serving in the Farafenni area told the Austins that he was distressed because he can cure the sick people but can do nothing about what makes them sick.

That's where Austin comes in. By putting in properly designed pit toilets, many diseases and parasites can be controlled. "For me this is one of the most satisfying things we're doing, because nobody is helping with waste disposal," says Austin, who holds master's degrees in both tropical medicine and public health.

Working in villages within six miles of Farafenni, he first discusses with village

leaders how to work together to get the pit toilets constructed.

To assure proper maintenance and understanding of keeping each unit sanitary, villages are required to dig the hole and provide sand and rock for a concrete top.

Austin provides a concrete top with lid that he designed himself and is built at his workshop. He used chicken wire as reinforcement in the lid at first but has found fibers from rice bags work just as well and are much cheaper. Because the thin concrete looks weaker than the traditional log-topped toilet Gambians are accustomed to, Austin often must get five or six men to stand on the completed unit — to prove it is sturdy. Each unit costs the equivalent of about \$10 or \$12.

Along with the installation, Austin advises the owners how to add ashes to keep down smell and urges that they keep cooking fires well away from the area.

In some cases, the pit toilets have made dramatic differences. For example, at one school with 1,200 students, no toilet facilities of any kind were offered until Austin installed several pit toilets.

Even more appreciated than the pit toilets, though, have been the wells Austin has installed throughout the area. He especially seeks out smaller villages overlooked by other aid projects working in the country. "In one village, people walked more than three miles for every drop of water," he says. Between 40 and 50 people lived there. "Water is the life of a village. If there's no water, people will migrate away,

(Continued on page 12)



University Church, Hattiesburg, names fellowship hall for Harold Kitchings



Kitchings

University Church, Hattiesburg, voted in May 13 business session to name its fellowship hall the Harold T. Kitchings Fellowship Hall in honor of its first fulltime pastor.

Kitchings was pastor of University Baptist Church, 1959-1965, and before his recent death, he was the executive secretary of the Baptist Foundation, Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Jim Newton joins staff of Lausanne Committee

ATLANTA (BP) — Jim Newton, writer and editor for a number of Baptist organizations, has been named director of communications for the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization.

Newton, director of news and information services for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here, will be moving to Singapore in July to head communications for the interdenominational, international committee.

For the past two years, Newton, 51, has served as senior communications consultant to the Lausanne Committee, developing a comprehensive international communications program leading up to an international congress the committee will hold in Singapore in 1989.

The Lausanne Committee also announced a decision to move the site of its 1989 International Congress on World Evangelization from Lausanne, Switzerland, to Singapore, in an effort to save an estimated \$3 million in costs.

Newton had served for seven months in 1983 as news director for Graham's International Conference

for Itinerant Evangelists in Amsterdam, on special leave from the Home Mission Board.

For the past 28 years, Newton has worked in various communications roles for the SBC Home Mission Board, the SBC Brotherhood Commission, the SBC Executive Committee, and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

He has been a staff writer and editor for Baptist Press bureaus in Dallas, Memphis, Atlanta, and was for eight years assistant director of the Baptist Press in Nashville, 1965-73.

Before going to the Home Mission Board in 1980, Newton was editor of *World Mission Journal* published by the Brotherhood Commission for eight years. He was press representative in Texas Baptists' public relations office from 1959-65.

Newton and his wife, the former Patricia Tullis of Clinton, Miss., plan to purchase a home in Clinton, where Mrs. Newton's family and their two daughters live. Mrs. Newton, a secretary in the church music department for the Georgia Baptist Convention, is a former editorial assistant for the *Baptist Record*.

Chinese Christian Foundation seeks medical specialists

NANJING, China — The Amity Foundation, Chinese Christians' social service organization, is seeking medical specialists from abroad for nine new lectureships at Chinese hospitals and medical institutions.

The foundation's education consultant, Ting Yen-Ren, has invited Southern Baptists to participate through Cooperative Services International, the denomination's office for involvement in countries where missionaries do not work.

The Amity Lectureships, scheduled for the 1987-88 academic year, will bring foreign medical specialists to China for three to six weeks each. They will lecture, demonstrate new medical techniques or participate in training programs and conferences in several cities.

The foundation is seeking specialists in several areas: primarily prevention, noncontagious diseases, hospital administration and health planning, occupational health care, hepatitis B, neonatal care, ophthalmological surgery, cardiac arrhythmia diagnosis and surgery, and the development of calcium antagonists.

Visiting specialists must pay their own transportation costs to and from China, but the foundation will arrange for housing, food and local travel.

According to a written foundation proposal, "if so desired, time will be set aside for the lecturer to meet with the Christian community and, on Sunday, to attend worship services at the local church." Visitors also will be introduced to the overall work of the Amity Foundation at its headquarters in Nanjing.

Another urgent Amity medical request calls for an ophthalmologist willing to spend several weeks in China performing cataract surgery and lens implants. Also, Zhejiang Medical University in Hangzhou has asked the foundation to provide teachers of medicine and medical English for beginning medical students during the 1987-88 school year.

Southern Baptist medical professionals interested in the China service opportunities should contact Alvinia Michalec in care of Cooperative Services International, P. O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va 23230. Telephone: (804) 353-0151.

Mississippi Baptist activities

May 31 Christian Peace Making Day (CAC Emphasis)

Thursday, May 28, 1987

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Bull market boosts annuity income

DALLAS (BP) — The skyward trek of the stock market and increases in member contributions to retirement plans boosted the Southern Baptist Annuity Board's 1987 first-quarter income 25 percent over the first three months of 1986.

Net income totaled a record \$123.12 million in the first three months of this year. Total assets increased \$136.28 million to almost \$2.1 billion.

In addition, member contributions increased 5.7 percent to \$32.6 million.

In his report to the board's trustee executive committee, Board Presi-

dent Darold H. Morgan attributed the bulk of the gains to the bull stock market. "Who would have ever thought stock market averages would hover around 2,300?" he asked.

Trustees promoted Charles Vanderslice to marketing vice president. Vanderslice has been a marketing director since coming to the board in 1983.

Previously he was assistant director of the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission in Nashville, Tenn., for five years.

Peggy Coldwell resigned as direc-

tor of the actuarial services department to accept a position with a Dallas insurance company. Alice Carter, assistant director of the department, was appointed acting director.

In other action, trustees approved four new stock managers.

The new managers are Provident Investment Counsel, Inc.; Lazard Freres Asset Management; Loomis, Sayles & Company, Inc.; and Scudder, Stevens & Clark, Inc.

1986—A Banner Year for Foreign Missions

Start rejoicing if you supported Southern Baptist foreign missions in 1986.

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Check off the results:

- ☒ A record 185,689 baptisms (17.1 percent increase; one for every 10.8 church members)
- ☒ 20 new churches started each week
- ☒ 411 missionaries appointed (ending the year with 3,756)
- ☒ More than:

- 14,500 national pastors
- 50,000 radio and 2,150 TV programs
- 1,900 Southern Baptist volunteers joining overseas Baptists in partnership evangelism, resulting in 24,279 professions of faith
- 6,200 total volunteers overseas

- ☒ \$8.5 million for hunger and relief; none spent for administration or promotion.

All that's big, BUT Southern Baptists still have a long way to go. What some call the impossible dream of Bold Mission Thrust is alive. Hope for reaching its world evangelization goals lies with Christians around the globe.

Will you shrink from the task or increase the resources it takes to dream a possible dream of proclaiming the gospel to the whole world by A.D. 2000?

Where the money came from

1986		
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering	\$ 67,135,000	37%
Cooperative Program	61,289,000	34
Investment Income	30,007,000	17
Designated and Special Gifts	10,476,000	6
Hunger and Relief	8,503,000	5
Other Income	2,411,000	1
Total	\$179,821,000	100%

How it was used

1986		
Missionary Support	\$ 86,212,000	47.9%
Evangelism and Church Development	12,672,000	7.0
Leadership Development	6,021,000	3.3
Media Ministries	2,948,000	1.6
Health Care Ministries	2,542,000	1.4
Human Need Ministries	663,000	.4
General Foreign	6,225,000	3.5
Other Field Activities	7,576,000	4.2
Special Gifts Disbursed	3,034,000	1.7
Hunger and Relief	8,510,000	4.7
Home Administration and Promotion	18,014,000	10.0
Endowment Transfers and Additions to Property Funds	20,542,000	11.4
Funding of Employee Benefits Programs	2,500,000	1.4
Available for Designated Use in Subsequent Year	3,500,000	2.0
Available for Appropriation in Subsequent Year	(1,138,000)	(.5)
Total	\$179,821,000	100%

The dream of Bold Mission Thrust lives or dies with you!

Southern Baptists: A Missions People
hearing believing, living, telling His story



For the full annual report of Southern Baptist foreign missions write the Foreign Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

THE PRODIGAL SON

Luke 15:11-32

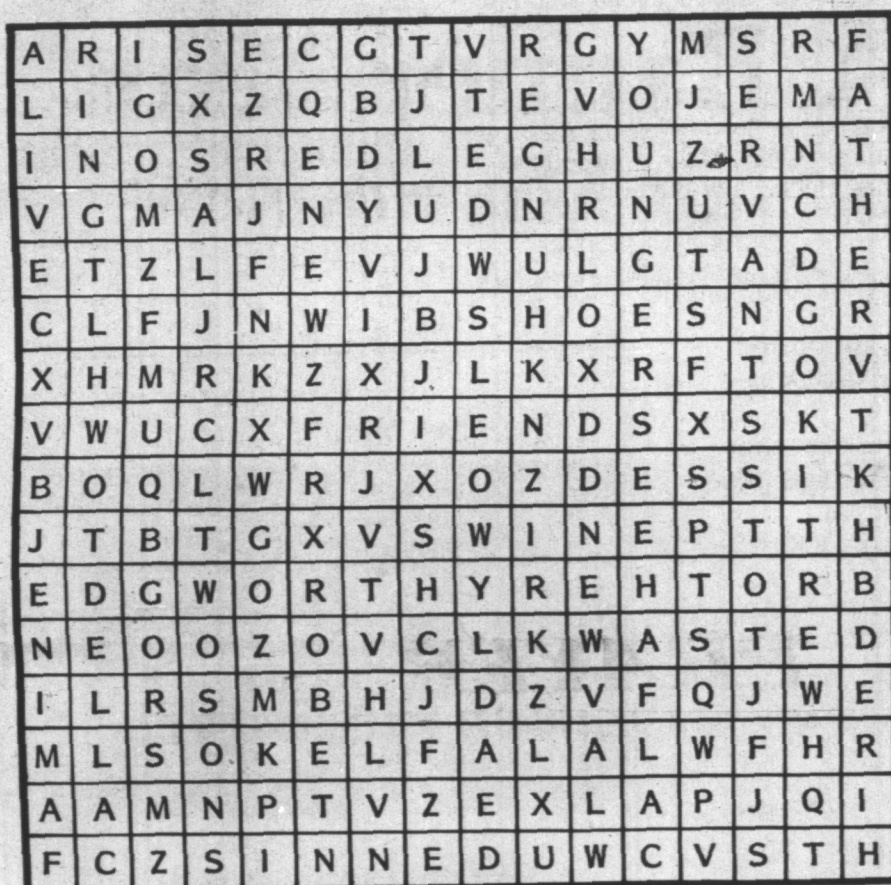
Search and find these words:

Father
two sons
journey
wasted
famine
swine
servants
hunger

arise
sinned
hired
kissed
worthy
called
robe
calf

ring
dead
younger
shoes
brother
elder son
friends
alive

(Answer on page 11)



Beautiful creations

With the warm wind blowing against my face,
With trees that are full of golden leaves,
With the morning dew still on the barely trampled grass,
With flowers blossoming into new life, full of color and shine,
I can truly thank God that I am one of his beautiful creations!

—Karen Peeples
Pearl, age 12

Unscramble these verses

Mkae a yofujl isoen tnou odg, lal ey ndasl.

Adn eb ey nidk noe ot tohnrea,dnetrearehetd, gnrofgvii noe otnareh.

Ye alhsl eb tinwsesse tnou em.

(Answers: Psalm 66:1, Ephesians 4:32, Acts 1:8)

GEOGRAFUN: (For young readers)

Nations and Imaginations

By Ralph C. Peterson



English Channel

Scotland, England, and Wales

Redrawn as a stag.
Color the picture.

CST	SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.
5:00	Lone Ranger Cartoon Cisco Kid	Plant Groom David Wade	Sergeant Preston Lassie	Sergeant Preston Lassie	Sergeant Preston Lassie	Sergeant Preston Lassie	Sergeant Preston Lassie
6:00	Changed Lives One in the Spirit	Vegetable Soup Cope	Villa Allegre Cope	Sunshine Factory Cope	Carras- colendas Cope	Infiniti Factory Cope	Moody Science Series Family Foundations
7:00	Catch the Spirit This is the Life	Sunshine Factory Cope	Sunshine Factory Cope	Sunshine Factory Cope	Sunshine Factory Cope	Sunshine Factory Cope	Sunday School Lesson Davey and Goldfish
8:00	Methodist Hour	Prime Timers Country Crossroads	Profiles Great Churches	Word of Life In Concert	From Jumpstreet Great Churches of America	First Things First Invitation to Life	Sunshine Factory Gigglesort Hotel
9:00	In Touch	Que Pasa USA?	Bill Cosby	Shari Lewis	Mickey Rooney	Rebop	Skippy the Kangaroo Lone Ranger Cartoon
10:00	Joy of Music Gloria	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Cisco Kid In Concert
11:00	Presbyterian Hour	Sunshine Factory Sergeant Preston	Sunshine Factory Sergeant Preston	Sunshine Factory Sergeant Preston	Sunshine Factory Sergeant Preston	Sunshine Factory Sergeant Preston	Christian Life- style Mag.
12:00	The Baptist Hour	Lassie	Lassie	Lassie	Lassie	Lassie	Country Crossroads
1:00	Christopher Closeup Sunday Selection	Sunshine Factory Psychiatry and You	Sunshine Factory Psychiatry and You	Sunshine Factory Psychiatry and You	Sunshine Factory Psychiatry and You	Sunshine Factory Psychiatry and You	Jim Houston Outdoor Magazine
2:00		Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	Plant Groom David Wade
3:00	Great Churches of America	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Davey and Goldfish Sunshine Factory
4:00	Joy of Music Gloria	Sergeant Preston	Sergeant Preston	Sergeant Preston	Sergeant Preston	Sergeant Preston	Gigglesort Hotel Country Crossroads
5:00	Presbyterian Hour	Lassie	Lassie	Lassie	Lassie	Lassie	Vegetable Soup Jim Houston Outdoors
6:00	This is the Life Methodist Hour	Bill Cosby	Shari Lewis	Mickey Rooney	Rebop	Que Pasa USA?	Skippy the Kangaroo Lone Ranger Cartoon
7:00	Changed Lives One in the Spirit	Profiles Great Churches of America	Word of Life In Concert	From Jumpstreet Great Churches of America	First Things First Invitation to Life	Prime Timers Country Crossroads	Cisco Kid In Concert
8:00	Baptist Hour Evening Worship	Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	Moody Science Series Family Foundations
9:00	Christopher Closeup Sunday Selection	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Sunday School Lesson Country Crossroads
10:00	Gloria	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	In Concert
11:00	Presbyterian Hour	Profiles Great Churches of America	Word of Life In Concert	From Jumpstreet Great Churches of America	First Things First Invitation to Life	Prime Timers Country Crossroads	Christian Life- style Mag.
12:00	The Baptist Hour	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Plant Groom David Wade
1:00	Christopher Closeup Outdoor Magazine	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Moody Science Series Family Foundations
2:00		Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	Sunday School Lesson Skippy the Kangaroo

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Farrell Blankenship
Miss. Bapt. Conv. Bd.
P O Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205

Staff Changes

David Wilkinson will begin his pastorate at Midway Church, Jackson, May 31. He was recently called by the congregation after a seven year pastorate of Rocky Point Church in Leake County.

A graduate of Mississippi State University and New Orleans Seminary, he and his wife, Delma Lee, have one son.

A reception is planned for the Wilkinsons following the evening service of May 31.

Stan Rushing of Clinton has been serving as interim pastor for the past four months. Dennis McIntire is minister of music.

Harold A. Anderson is a new pastor of East Moss Point Church, Moss Point.

Anderson is a native of Jacksonville, Fla. He and his wife, Gladys, are the parents of three daughters, all married.

He was ordained in 1968, and has served churches in Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi.

He attended Baptist Bible Institute and received his degree from Mobile College. He received his master's degree from New Orleans Seminary and his doctor of theology degree from Emmaus Bible Institute and Seminary, Elizabethton, Tenn.

Don G. Nerren has accepted the position as chaplain of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's Chemical Dependency Center. He goes to the C.D.C. from a pastorate in McShan, Ala.

Prior to going to McShan, Nerren served 22 years as a pastor in Mississippi.

Nerren is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Nerren, Jr. of Tupelo. He is married to the former Linda Sue Cauthen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Teddy Cauthen of Collins. They have two children, Joshua and April. Nerren is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary and Luther Rice Seminary.

Senior Adult Corner

Bert Morse was chosen "Senior Adult of the Year" at Dixie Church, Hattiesburg. He was honored during the morning worship service on Senior Adult Day, April 26. He was also featured soloist for the service.

Morse, a building contractor, has been a member of Dixie Church since age 16. At the present time, he serves on the building committee and is a member of the sanctuary choir.



Lawrence Hanberry

First Church, Ridgeland, has added two full time members to its staff. Tim Lawrence has been named as minister of music and youth and Phil Hanberry has been called as minister of education and evangelism.

Lawrence is a native of California and has served churches in Alabama for the past 12 years. He and his wife, Vicki, have one daughter, Courtney.

Hanberry, a native of Hattiesburg, and his wife, Melissa, moved to the Ridgeland area from Clute, Tex.

Ed Griffin is pastor.

First Church, Wiggins has called John Alumbaugh as minister of music. In addition to church duties, Alumbaugh is a student at New Orleans Seminary.

Rehobeth Church, Pelahatchie, has called Blake Scafedel of Brookhaven as minister of music and youth. He accepted the position and began his duties on May 17. Robert Gillis is pastor.

Bob Gilmore has resigned as minister of music and youth at Diamondhead Church, Bay St. Louis.

Mark ("Big Red") Bryant is summer youth minister at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton. He began on May 13 and will continue work there until July 26.

Joe Joslin has accepted the call of First Church, Charlotte, N.C. to become its minister of music.

A native of Corinth, he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Joslin of Batesville. Joslin formerly served Van Winkle Church, Jackson; First Church, Quitman; and Emmanuel Church, Greenville.

He is married to the former Sharon Perkins of Rolling Fork and they have two sons.

Revival Results

South Louisville, Louisville: May 10-14; 13 professions of faith; Donnie Guy, full-time evangelist, Biloxi, preacher; Edd Brashier, minister of music, First Church, Carthage, music evangelist; Terry Cutrer, pastor.

Puzzle Answers

(Puzzle on page 10)

Across: 1. ARISECGTVRGYMSRF
2. LIGXZQBTEVOJEMA
3. NOSREDLEGHUZRNT
4. GMAJNUUDNRNUVCH
5. ETZLFVJWULGTADER
6. CLFJNWIBSHOESNGR
7. XHMRKZXJLKRFTOV
8. VWUCX(FRIENDS)XSKT
9. BOQLWRJXOZDESSIK
10. TBTGXVSWINPTTH
11. EDG(WORTHY)REHTORB
12. NEOOZOVCLEWASTED
13. ILRSMBHJDZVRQJWE
14. MLSOKELFALALWFHR
15. AMNPVTZEXLAPJQI
16. FCZSINNEDUWCVSTH

Dixie, Hattiesburg, will observe note burning

Dixie Church, Hattiesburg, will observe homecoming and a note burning ceremony, May 31, at 10:30 a.m. The church was organized in October 1922, and is located in the Dixie Community south of Hattiesburg. It has grown throughout the years and is now occupying the third sanctuary. The entire church plant is free of indebtedness.

Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will be guest speaker. Following dinner at the church, "The Deacon's Quartet" of McDowell Road Church, Jackson, will present a program of special music at 1:30. There will be no night services. Billy G. Johnson is pastor of the church and Keith Bennett is minister of music and youth.

Revival Dates

South 28th Avenue, Hattiesburg: May 31-June 4; 7 nightly; Sunday, homecoming, dinner on the ground, worship, 11 a.m.; John Cutrer, Osyka, evangelist; Gibbie McMillan, pastor.

Crowder, Crowder: youth led revival May 22-24, 7:30 each night; John Bramlett, ex-pro/football player, speaker; Gary Hart, music; both are from Memphis; Saturday, 6 p.m., Hart will present concert; Harvey Sewell, pastor.

East Moss Point, Moss Point: May 31-June 3; John Hilbun, evangelist; Ronnie Cottingham, music evangelist; 7 p.m., Sun. - Wed; Harold A. Anderson, pastor.

Johnson Creek, State Line: May 31-June 5; dinner on grounds following morning worship; evening service, 7:30 nightly; Jimmy Talley, Arkansas, evangelist; Fawzy Shorosh, interim pastor.

Belen (Quitman): May 31-June 5; Todd Bowen, pastor; Jimmy Millikin, professor, Mid-America Seminary, evangelist; Chris Walker, West Shiloh, Savannah, Tenn, music; Sunday, 6 p.m.; week nights, 7:30 p.m.; Todd Bowen, pastor.

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Thursday, May 28, 1987

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 11

Homecomings

Rock Hill (Rankin): May 31; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m., with former pastor and music director, Wilson Murray and Tommie Sparkman; lunch at noon; afternoon, special music, Greater Love Quartet, Alta Woods Church, Jackson; Tim Canterbury, pastor.

Johnson Creek, State Line: May 31; worship service, 11 p.m.; dinner; afternoon service of singing, 1:30; Jimmy Talley, Arkansas, speaker; Fawzy Shorosh, interim pastor.

Souenlovie, Enterprise: May 31; services, 10 a.m.; gospel singing with the Revelations; worship services, 11; David Townsend, guest speaker; lunch will be served; Parker Chancellor, pastor.

Heucks Retreat (Lincoln): May 31; Richard A. Bradley, pastor, message; Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship service, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; afternoon memorial service, 1:15 p.m., led by associational missions director, Talmadge E. Smith; Charles Odum, music.

Antioch (Simpson): May 31; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds, 12 noon; old-fashioned singing, 1 p.m.; W. R. Storie, evangelist; Barry Ward, pastor.

Sand Ridge, Lake: May 31, Kenneth Harrison, pastor, Byram Church, speaker, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds will follow, and a gospel singing featuring The Culpeppers; Danny Moss, pastor.

Mt. Zion (Lincoln): June 7; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal; business meeting and memorial service will follow.

First, Glendale, Hattiesburg, homecoming and baccalaureate, May 31; Don Stewart, vice president, New Orleans Seminary, speaker; John and Beth Greene, Willow Point Church, Shreveport, La., music; Billy Skinner, pastor; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; preaching, 11 a.m.; noon meal to follow; afternoon service, 1:30 p.m.

Register now for summer classes at MBS, Jackson

Mississippi Baptist Seminary in Jackson is conducting pre-registration for its 1987 Summer Term now through May 29. Course work leads to the certificate and diploma.

Office hours during pre-registration are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Classes will begin June 1.

For details of class times or other information, phone 944-1741.

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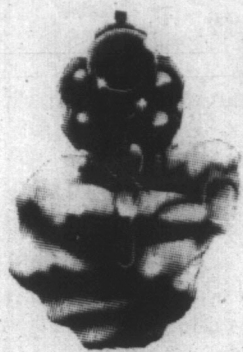
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Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention



Intensive care

*Drugs are just as deadly
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with your life*

A personal victory won

A woman not of this area, an alcoholic, found sobriety while she was here. Not long ago she moved to another part of the country. Before leaving Mississippi she experienced a noticeable change in the manner of her life. Personal victories are worthy of note. An excerpt from her recent letter is shared here:

"The people up here are just as friendly as I hoped they would be. The knowledge that they would be here waiting for me surely made the move easier. They noticed right away how very shy I am, but they persisted in drawing me out of my shell . . . I truly believe that God sent us here for a reason. He has something he means for us to do. We may never understand his purpose, but the search is going to be exciting. How he has blessed me in

so many different ways. There is such a long way for me to go on the path of learning and growth. I feel that this move is yet another step forward. Through you, the staff of CDC and the patients, I found the freedom to begin the journey. Perhaps, you will accept any good that I am able to do as payment. Because of the love of God and others I know I have the potential to do good."

Questions and comments addressed to Intensive Care are forwarded to Chaplain Joe Stovall at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center and are handled in consultation with the staff of the Chemical Dependency Center. Letters should be sent to Intensive Care, Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.



Jones JC commissions missionaries

Baptist Student Union of Jones County Junior College held a commissioning service, April 22, for 19 students. The program theme was "So Send I You."

Those commissioned were, Mark Longino, summer missionary, Kentucky; Kevin Parker, summer missionary, Virginia; Toney Mixon, Misty Moore, Leanne MacInnis, Stacy Jackson, Gulfshore Assembly; and Shane Bounds, Central Hills Retreat.

Also, commissioned for Spot Mission Trip in Houston, Tex. as missionaries, were Charles Graves, Renee Graves, Leigh Hughes, Jamie Lewis, Michelle McGuire, Toney Mixon, Misty Moore, Jerry Morris, Cyndi Swindall, Gerald Touchstone, Duane Weems, and John Sumner, director.

Missionary digs pit toilets

(Continued from page 8)

and the village will die. Water is a main concern."

As with the pit toilets, villagers must agree to dig the wells themselves, although Austin provides shovels, crowbars, and a tripod pulley for hauling out buckets of dirt. Austin and one of his three two-man well-drilling crews top it off with a concrete collar.

Austin also is experimenting with gardening plots to teach area residents how to grow better, more varied crops, including citrus fruits.

And he is experimenting with drying certain crops, which would help extend the food supply beyond just the few weeks they are harvested. Reforestation is a long-range goal.

He and his wife also do routine health checks in the villages, checking the weight of babies to make sure they are developing well. Stool

samples of children help identify parasite infestation, a common problem. Such routine checks turned up a measles outbreak just starting in one village last year; by alerting health officials, they headed off a possible epidemic.

A dental clinic has been constructed in Farafenni, and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board is hoping a career missionary dentist can be appointed to serve there soon.

Amid the other work, Austin is slowly developing rapport with village leaders in the area and gradually teaching them about public health. It is slow work, changing habits followed for centuries and telling people who have never been to school about germs — something which they cannot see.

As they discover he has told them the truth about health matters, he hopes they will discover he has told the truth about Jesus, also.

Mike Creswell writes for the FMB.

Kennedy honored in seminary journal

NEW ORLEANS — J. Hardee Kennedy, of Meridian, Miss., has been honored in the spring issue of *The Theological Educator*, a journal published biannually by the faculty of New Orleans Seminary.

A graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary, Kennedy retired from his position as academic vice president at the seminary in 1981. The issue is a festschrift to honor the professor of Old Testament and Hebrew.

The first article of the *Educator* is a biographical sketch of Kennedy, written by his friend and colleague in Old Testament, John Olen Strange, followed by a bibliography of Kennedy's published writings.

Other authors have contributed articles dealing with one of Kennedy's great interests, Old Testament theology.

Laurel class sponsors personal growth meet

A personal growth conference entitled, "Meet me on the Patio," was sponsored by the Adult III, co-ed class at First Church, Laurel.

The conference, which took place May 8-9 at the church at 507 W. 5th Street in Laurel, featured Mrs. Reda Stroup, minister of education at Parkwood Church, Jacksonville, and a contract worker for the Pastoral Ministries Department of the Florida Baptist Convention.

E. J. Daniels dies

Baptist evangelist and publisher E.J. Daniels, 78, died March 13 in Florida. Daniels, head of the Christ for the World ministry, was seen on television for a number of years and wrote more than 38 books.

Following open heart surgery, Daniels began keeping track of the number of professions of faith made in his crusades. In a five year period, the total was more than one million.

It is not the employer who pays wages — he only handles the money. It is the product that pays wages. — Henry Ford

Louisianans elect executive director

By Oscar Hoffmeyer Jr.

ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP) — Mark Short was elected executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention's Executive Board during a board meeting May 5.

He will assume his new position June 1, succeeding Robert L. Lee of Pineville, executive director emeritus, who retired Dec. 1, 1986, after serving in a leadership position with the Louisiana executive board for 33 years, 30 of them as executive director.

Short, 58, is Southern Baptist Sunday School Board professor of denominational relations at New Orleans Seminary, a post he has held for five years.

Short was presented to the executive board by Perry Sanders, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lafayette, and chairman of the executive director search committee.

"The committee was unanimous in a secret ballot vote. We feel Mark Short has expertise in management, platform skills and is knowledgeable in every level of Baptist life. During his association with Louisiana, he has

spoken in every association and preached or taught in more than 300 churches."

Short, a native of Texas, was on the staff of the Louisiana Baptist Convention as church growth consultant prior to becoming a professor at New Orleans seminary. He also has been manager of the Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, minister of music and education in several Southern Baptist churches, and associate pastor and administrator at South Main Church in Houston.

He attended Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., and Southwestern Seminary. He has a bachelor of arts degree from University of New York and a master of business studies from the University of Oklahoma. He has completed all academic requirements for the doctor of education degree at New Orleans seminary and expects to receive the degree this summer.

Oscar Hoffmeyer, Jr. writes for Louisiana Baptists.

Wayland president resigns

By Lonnie Wilkey

PLAINVIEW, Texas (BP) — David L. Jester, president of Wayland Baptist University here, since 1981, has resigned.

A college spokesman said Jester had been "under fire internally" from faculty, students, and staff members because of severe financial problems in recent months. In late March the college's trustees cut the school's \$12.5 million 1986-87 budget by 20 percent or \$2.5 million.

Cutbacks included reducing present faculty and staff by 30 and eliminating some academic programs with limited enrollments, the spokesman said.

In addition to Jester, three of the college's vice presidents have resigned during the past month. Ron Mooney, development vice president, and Paul Butler, student development vice president, accepted similar positions at different Baptist colleges — Mooney at Hannibal-LaGrange College in Hannibal, Mo., and Butler at Howard Payne University in

Brownwood, Texas.

Fred Teague, academic vice president, resigned to become dean of graduate studies at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo.

The college spokesman declined to speculate whether the vice presidents' resignations were related to Jester's administration.

The college's spokesman said Jester was hospitalized May 11 for health problems and was unavailable for comment.

Jester, 57, was director of the graduate program and professor of education at Georgetown (Ky.) College before assuming the Wayland presidency.

The son of Southern Baptist missionaries, Jester served 13 years as a missionary in various educational capacities in schools and universities in Nigeria. He holds degrees from Georgetown College, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and Columbia University.

Wilkey writes for the Education Commission.

A committed Southern Baptist

(Continued from page 7)

evaluate applicants.

The FMB has recently adopted that the HMB has practiced for years. The HMB has been appointing Mid-America graduates without requiring further study at a SBC controlled seminary. MABTS graduates have been serving both our FMB and our HMB for several years. Previously, the FMB required them to study for one year on the campus of one of the six SBC controlled seminaries before they were considered for appointment. Now the FMB has formally declared this policy unnecessary. Mid-America graduates have been found to possess all of the necessary skills and education required to serve with loyalty and integrity.

The point is this, I can be a loyal and

committed Southern Baptist without attending a SBC controlled seminary. In fact, I chose to attend a non-SBC controlled seminary because I am a loyal and committed Southern Baptist!

M. Tony Ludlow, pastor
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First Church, Starkville will recognize 15 years of service from its pastor and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. (Gretta) Raymond Lloyd on June 7. There will be a special service of recognition in the Sunday morning service which begins at 10:45 a.m. Mrs. Vicky Boteler of Little Rock, Arkansas (their daughter), and Richard Lloyd of Lake George, New York (his father) will participate in the service. Rich Lloyd of Upton, Kentucky (their son), will preach in this service.

On Sunday afternoon the pastor and his wife will be honored by a reception from 3-5 p.m. in fellowship hall.

Michael L. Davis of Charleston, received the master of arts in religion degree from Memphis Theological Seminary on May 23. Davis is minister of music and youth for the First Church of Charleston. He is a graduate of Loyd Star High School in Brookhaven, has a degree from Wm. Carey College and Copiah-Lincoln Junior College.

Davis and his wife, Deniece Broxson Davis, have one child.

Walter Simmons, pastor of Philadelphia and Edgeworth churches in Webster County, graduated May 15 from Mississippi State University with a B.S. degree in secondary education. During two years at MSU he achieved status of President's Scholar twice, and was graduated with a 3.7 average (Simmons had been out of school a number of years before returning to finish degree requirements.) His plans now are to begin work on a master's degree and attend the Jackson campus of New Orleans Seminary this fall. He is in his fifth year as pastor in Webster County.

James Nance, master of church music student from Gulfport, sings during recent student-led chapel services at New Orleans Seminary. He holds a bachelor's degree from Mississippi College.



Nance

M. E. (Mike) Miller, formerly minister of music in Vicksburg and Taylorsville, is available for revivals, interim and part-time music director. He can be contacted at P. O. Box 5154, Vancleave, MS 39565, or phone (601) 826-4025.

First Church, Quitman, honored its pastor, Rex Yancey, who recently received the doctor of ministry degree from New Orleans Seminary. In the receiving line with Yancey were his wife, Ellon, son, Lee, daughter, Lori, and his mother, Mrs. Earl Yancey.

Members of the hospitality committee who planned the affair and served refreshments were Lynn Cochran, Sylvia Hinton, Inez Lacy, Donna Dabbs, Peggy Carter, and Flossie Stallworth.

James Hanks of Madison is a new board member of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Tex. Hanks is a 1956 graduate of the Baptist college and is a member of North Jackson, Church, Jackson.



MC president Lewis Nobles and Angela Smith

Angela Smith, MC student, among 'women of promise'

Angela Smith of Hollandale, a senior at Mississippi College was selected by Good Housekeeping Magazine recently as one of 100 Women of Promise, Class of '87, from across the nation.

Each U.S. university and college president had the opportunity of submitting one name for consideration. From the 3,200 nominations submitted, final selection was made by a panel chosen by Good Housekeeping and The Washington Center.

As only the third woman to become student body president at Mississippi College during the school's 161-year history, Angela has shown leadership ability among her fellow students. From student government to publications to campus ministry, she has made tremendous contributions to campus life.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Smith, pastor of Hollandale Church, Hollandale, Angela's efforts have been noted by her selection into the Mississippi College Hall of Fame and Who's Who Among Students in

American University and Colleges.

According to Lewis Nobles, president of Mississippi College, "Angela has shown great leadership ability among her peers and has earned the respect and admiration of the faculty and staff of the college and has made a considerable contribution to her community."

In addition to campus activities, the woman of promise must stand strong academically. A mathematics education major, chemistry minor and excellent student herself, Angela aspires to teach high school students, a vocation for which she is currently preparing by student teaching at Clinton High School.

She has served as youth minister of Morrison Heights Church in Clinton and as summer youth director at churches in Hollandale and Houston. Angela has tutored at the Baptist Children's Village, worked with the Clinton Community Christian Corporation "Kid's Club," and participated in a senior citizens home ministry.

Mid-America grants degrees to eight with state connections

Of fifty-seven May 8, 1987 graduates of Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, Tenn., the following are from Mississippi:

Arthur Carl Burdick, native of Boston, Mass.; associate of divinity; music and youth director at Richland Church, West Memphis, Ark.

Neil Tucker Gant of Hickory Flat, son of Neil T. Gant, Sr., of Byhalia, graduate of Blue Mountain College; master of divinity; was ordained by Palmer Church, Ripley.

Henry McKinney, Jr., of Jacksonville, Fla.; master of divinity; graduate of Liberty Baptist University; served as minister of youth and recreation at First Church, Olive Branch, while at Mid-America.

Philip Randolph Smith, of Athens, Ga.; associate of divinity; pastor of New Garden Church, Coldwater.

Philip Jackson Marshall, master of divinity; graduate of Mississippi College.

Charles R. Henderson; master of divinity; resides in Walls; graduate of Ouachita Baptist University.

Brent Cameron Powell; master of

divinity; graduate of Blue Mountain College; is presently serving as a resident chaplain at Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis.

The land of religious freedom

(Continued from page 2)

them how those practices are to be carried out or limit them in any way. If the church wants to build an education facility and zoning laws forbid it, then it cannot build the facility.

The continuing concept is that the church body, then, cannot seek to rule the nation.

It doesn't make any difference how the majority feels about its religious beliefs, they cannot be forced upon a minority. Only as we adhere to this practice can we maintain our sanity and decency in the world of religion.

Golden Gate trustees okay budget, two faculty members

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP) — Trustees of Golden Gate Seminary adopted a \$5.7 million budget for 1987-88 and elected two faculty members during their spring meeting here.

The budget is a 9.1 percent increase over the current budget, President William O. Crews Jr. said. Basic funding of the seminary's budget will come from gifts of Southern Baptist churches through the denomination's Cooperative Program unified budget.

For 1987-88, Cooperative Program gifts should total more than \$2.5 million, representing only 44 percent of the budget, Crews noted. The

balance will be met through fees and income from other sources. In addition, \$1.2 million is expected to be raised through the seminary's annual fund toward support of the budget.

The current financial status of the seminary was pictured as having suffered from the transition of administrations during the past year. Frank Pollard resigned as seminary president in March of 1986, and Crews was elected to succeed him in December. The seminary is short \$657,000 in income from its annual fund for the year, which ends July 31.

As a result, the trustees voted to refinance an off-campus 32-unit apart-

ment complex, which trustees were told could bring about \$1 million in equity to be put into an emergency operating general fund. The complex, appraised at more than \$2 million, is expected to be collateral for a \$1.2 million loan.

In other action, trustees unanimously elected Leroy Gainey and Barry A. Stricker to the faculty.

Gainey was named associate professor of religious education. He is the first black trustee-elected, full-time faculty member of a Southern Baptist seminary. He is senior pastor of Central Baptist Church in Syracuse, N.Y.

Registration scheduled for 28,000 convention messengers

(Continued from page 3)
Avenue Baptist Church of Fort Smith, Ark.

According to Article III of the Southern Baptist Convention Constitution, every church "in friendly cooperation" with the convention "and sympathetic with its purposes and work" who has been a "bona fide contributor to the convention work" during the previous fiscal year is entitled to one messenger.

Other messengers, up to a total of 10, are gained at the rate of one for each 250 members or for each \$250 paid to the work of the convention in the preceding fiscal year.

Porter said only about one percent of the churches in the convention use the membership category in qualify-

ing for messengers, while the remainder use contributions as the scale. Porter said a church must use one or the other, and may not use a combination to qualify for messengers.

He added churches which have constituted since the end of the last fiscal year — which ended Sept. 30, 1986 — may not register, since the constitution specifies only those congregations contributing "during the last fiscal year" may have messengers.

Porter added only messengers may register. "Our constitution has no provision for registering alternates. The church must certify to the convention those who have been elected as messengers and may not have more than 10."

Messengers will receive a messenger badge which will allow them to enter the convention hall. "Small children with their parents will be admitted to the floor of the convention, but a badge will be necessary to be admitted to sessions of the convention," he said.

Messengers also will receive ballots to be used in voting. "These are to be used only by the registered messenger and are not to be given to anyone else. The convention prohibits proxy voting," Porter added.

He said messengers may purchase for \$4 a Book of Reports, which includes reports and financial data from all of the agencies as well as detailed reports on other matters to come before the convention.

Thursday, May 28, 1987

Bob Wilson, pastor, dies in Jackson

Bob Gerald Wilson, 63, of 1951 Teakwood Drive, Jackson, died May 18, at Hinds General Hospital. Services were 2 p.m. May 21 at Mars Hill Baptist Church in Amite County with burial in the church cemetery. Hartman Funeral Home of McComb, a native of Mississippi, was a retired Baptist chaplain for Charity Hospital in New Orleans. He served as pastor of churches in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Following a serious automobile accident, he had written a book concerning his experiences related to the accident.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Nona Smith Wilson; son, Robert Wilson of Boulder, Colo.; daughter, Mrs. Kay Wilson Sibley of Boulder; stepdaughters, Mrs. Nona Mills and Mrs. Cheryl Pendergrass, both of Pearl, and Mrs. Gail Brown of Jackson; brother, Dan Gene Wilson of Metairie, La.; and seven grandchildren.



First Church, Lucedale, recently held a GA recognition service. The theme was "My Promise To God." Girls participating (left to right) front row, Alison O'Neal, Ragan Sumrall, Rosemary Roberts, Blayre Goodrum, Sheree Davis, Christina Curd, Robin Platt, Brandye Dillon, and Joy Caldwell. Second row, Sarah Fryfogle, Amy Holland, Ashley Gilmore, Kimberly Fryfogle, Wendy Smith, Jeana Conner, and Jennifer Bailey. Third row, Zan Bragg, Jennifer O'Neal, Dianna Purvis, Candace Walker, Kristy Parker, Christy Gilmore, Robin Tanner,

Tracie Curd, Kristy Taylor, Natasha Gilmore and Cassie Loftin.

After the recognition service the GAs and leaders were honored with a reception given by the Baptist Women. GA leaders are Dolores Walker, Dianne DeVaughan, Linda Holland, Denise Smith, Donna Worley, Alice O'Neal, Charlotte Conner, Judy Loftin, DeWanda Platt, Jonette Vesely, Donna Bragg, Nola Gilmore, and Suzy Tanner. Fred Moseley presented a charge to GAs and church. John L. Walker, pastor.

Crowder, Crowder: Vacation Bible School, June 1-5; 8:30-11:30 a.m.; Harvey Sewell, pastor.

"Cardiac Rebounders," a support group organized by Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's Cardiac Rehabilitation Department, invites anyone who is or has been a heart patient and their family members to a picnic Saturday, June 5, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Miss. Agricultural and Forestry Museum's picnic area on Lakeland Drive. Participants are asked to bring a covered dish. Please call 968-3090 to reserve a place.

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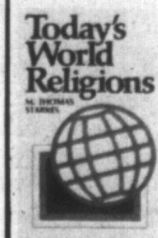
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Missionary News

Tom and Robbie Pettey, missionary associates to Nigeria since 1981, resigned from missionary service March 31. They served in Ogbomoso, Nigeria, where he was seminary maintenance supervisor and she was a church and home worker. Both are natives of Philadelphia, Miss.; she is the former Robbie Beal. They may be addressed at 229 Alida St., Clarksdale, Miss. 38146.

Mrs. Ruby Gunter, mother of Mrs. Virgil Cooper, missionary to Korea, died March 24 in Andalusia, Ala. Mrs. Cooper is the former Amy Gunter of Andalusia. Her husband was born in Water Valley, Miss., and also lived in Aliceville, Ala., and Vicksburg, Miss. Appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1971, they may be addressed at 148 Namchern Dong, Nam Ku, Samik Beach Town 202-309, Pusan 608, Korea.

Paul and Virginia Smith, Baptist representatives to Morocco, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: 33 Cite Des Minos, Fes, Morocco). He was born in Silver Creek, Miss. She is the former Virginia Walker of Farmington, Mo.

Steve and Vidonia Smith, missionaries to Argentina, have completed language study in Costa Rica and arrived on their field of service (address: Bolanos 141, 1407 Buenos Aires, Argentina). He was born in Santa Monica, Calif., and considers Hattiesburg, Miss., his hometown. The former Vidonia Smith, she was born in Houston, Texas, and considers White Oak, Miss., her hometown.

Dennis and Sherrie Meilstrup, missionaries to Argentina, have completed language study in Costa Rica and arrived on their field of service (address: Casilla 344, J. J. Paso 3066, 7600 Mar Del Plata, Argentina). He was born in South Bend, Ind. The former Sherrie Walker of Mississippi, she was born in Meridian and considers Flora her hometown.

Joy Neal, missionary to Transkei, has arrived in the States for furlough (address: 1201 Bridle Lane, Richmond, Va. 23229). She was born in Meridian, Miss., and grew up in Beaumont, Tex. She was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1982.

John and Claudia Brown, missionaries to Mozambique, have arrived in Portugal for language study (address: Ave dos Bombeiros Voluntarios, Lote 110-11-F, Alges, 1495 Lisbon, Portugal). A native of Arkansas, he was born in Pine Bluff and considers Star City his hometown. The former Claudia Tenney, she was born in Bowling Green, Ohio, and considers Jackson, Miss., her hometown. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1987.

Sandi Johnson, journeyman to Ecuador, has arrived on the field to begin her two-year term of service as assistant to the mission treasurer and business manager (address: Casilla 4725-A, Quito, Ecuador). She considers Big Point, Miss., her hometown. Before she was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in February 1987, she was graduated from Mississippi University for Women, Columbus.

Abbie Pegues, journeyman to Thailand, has arrived on the field to begin her two-year term of service as an English teacher in a student center (address: P. O. Box 832, Bangkok, Thailand 10501). She is a native of Tupelo, Miss. Before she was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in February 1987, she was youth intern at Calvary Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N.C.

Carl and Lillian Prewitt, missionaries to Philippines, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: Rt. 3, Box 129, Crystal Springs, Miss. 39059). They are natives of Mississippi. He was born in Cleveland and considers Benoit his hometown. The former Lillian Pevey, she was born in Hazelhurst and considers Scott her hometown.



Gamari Road Church (currently Northside) Greenville, broke ground for a new church complex, May 3. Special guests included John McBride, Cooperative Missions director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Roy D. Raddin, director of missions, Washington County. The ceremony included as pictured from left to right, Martha Welch, WMU director; Martha Hicks, religious education director; Tommy Mason, Sunday School director; Randy Welch, youth and activities director; E. Leslie Hicks, pastor, and Billy Mason, building committee chairman and chairman of deacons.



First Church, Columbia, broke ground for a new educational facility, May 10, which will include preschool, children, and youth areas plus office and music suites. Also included in new construction will be a family activities building.

Fire destroyed its three-story educational building on August 11, of last year.

Pictured, center front, are J. Roy McComb, pastor; walking on the right, Bernie Parker, minister of music; standing, left to right, Judge Vernon Broom, deacon chairman; Carrol Campbell, Dewey Herring, Mrs. Stan Pendarvis, Fleet Morris, J. T. Waldrop, Fleet Burkett, Eddie Ray Breakfast, building committee chairman; Mrs. John Sturdivant, and Mrs. Bill Gray.

Fleet Burkett, eldest member of the church at age 96 and church building superintendent for many years turned the initial shovel of dirt.



New Prospect Church, Tishomingo County, recently held RA Race Day for its Crusaders and Pioneers. Ronnie Stricklen and Jack Daniel reported that there were 37 cars that entered the race and pictured are these five young men who came out on top, left to right, Chris Duff came in second while Jeffery Fredrick came in first in the Crusaders' race. In the Pioneers' Scott Ortner placed third, Jr. Russ placed second, and Joe Tucker was first. In the overall race between Pioneers and Crusaders, Jeffery Fredrick placed first. Michael Duff is pastor.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

God promises restoration to the rebel who returns

By Robert M. Hanvey
Hosea 14:1-9

The focal passage for the lesson this week is Hosea 14:1-9. In 14:7 we find these words, "They that dwell under his shadow shall return. They shall revive as the corn and grow as the vine. The scent thereof shall be as the wine of Lebanon." When one has walked waywardly, apart from God, and when one has found himself in complete rebellion against God, and when that one finally returns to God, isn't it sweet and isn't it loving and isn't it good? This is the nature of God's offer of forgiveness and restoration, not only to Israel as recorded for us in the Book of Hosea, but also to individuals today.



Hanvey

The assurance from Almighty God that once one returns unto him, accepting his forgiveness

and entering into new relationship with him, God is going to take that life and nurture it and bring it to fruition. He is going to bring it to fulfillment. He is going to bring it to completeness in him. God blesses abundantly those who turn to him in genuine repentance.

In last week's lesson we talked about genuine repentance; we talked about turning unto God; we talked about the giving of the total self to God. Hosea had called Israel to return to God and he gave Israel the words to say that would indicate genuine repentance and love to God and toward God. God's promise was that if repentance was made and forgiveness received, that he would heal the land, love the people, and nourish the entire nation, causing the nation itself to flourish. God's tender care and love would give Israel life and hope and the

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possibility of future fruitbearing. Whoever is wise believes in the Lord and walks in his ways.

Adults who seek to know and to relate to God can find help in Hosea's instruction of turning to God and repenting of sins. Adults who want to find themselves committed to wealth and power as security for life can be challenged to turn from those and turn to Almighty God.

People who wonder about the worth of serving God can be reminded of God's blessings through the study of this lesson, and surely they can look at Israel and find God's restoring power and authority.

Isn't it marvelous to know that God is still using people today to call others from sin, from rebellion, from problems, and from difficulties unto that good, abundant and flourishing life which can be found only in God? He calls us to abundance of living. He calls us to genuine repentance. When we do repent, we turn to God. The promise of restoration is ours to receive.

These lessons from Hosea have been ex-

tremely enlightening. They have taught us about the untiring love of God. They have taught us that God does not miss anything which happens in our lives. These lessons have taught us that God has a marvelous plan for all of his people. His plan is to be followed, worked, and respected. The child of God who listens to and receives help from the Father is the richer for having been faithful.

These lessons have taught us that God does forgive and that he does restore. However, God expects our devotion in return for his work with us. We may feel self-sufficient, but if we look at Hosea, we learn we cannot function apart from the Almighty. There awaits hurt, pain, disappointment, and chaos if one desires to live on his own. But with God there is the opportunity of knowing him fully and completely, and there is the receiving of his blessings for faithfulness to his control. I pray we have learned much from Hosea.

Robert Hanvey is pastor, First, Hazlehurst.

Cries of the people in distress go up to God

By Charles Wesley
Psalms 123: 126: 137

The Jews were overworked and persecuted in Egypt. I am sure some of them wondered about the fairness of God. After all, God was the One who led the Jews into Egypt through the generosity of Joseph to provide for them during a time of famine. But now the cries of their distress were going up to God. The Bible declares God heard their cries (Ex. 3:7), and God led them out of Egypt. However, that would not be the only time God's people would cry to God out of distress. In this week's lesson we will study three psalms that were cries to God spoken out of times of conflict and trial.



Wesley

God's people would cry to God out of distress. In this week's lesson we will study three psalms that were cries to God spoken out of times of conflict and trial.

I. A cry for mercy (Psalm 123). Possibly this psalm was sung as the people were going to the temple to worship. Also, the psalm may have been used as part of the worship in the temple. Since the first verse is written in the first per-

son singular, this verse may have been recited or sung by the priest. The other verses of the psalm are written in first person plural and would be recited by the worshippers. Thus, Psalm 123 may have been used as a responsive reading by the Hebrew worshippers.

The psalmist saw God sitting on his throne in the heavens. God is recognized as having the power to offer aid to his people. As servants look to the hands of their master and a maid to her mistress, we look to God for his gracious help. When others despise us and ridicule us we can cry to the Lord for his gracious help. There will always be those proud people who consider Christians with contempt. The Christian's response is not revenge, but calling to God for help.

II. A cry for restoration (Psalm 126). This psalm is also a psalm sung by the people as they travel to the place of worship. In the first three verses the psalmist remembers the past interventions of God. The freeing of the exiles

ordered by King Cyrus of Persia after he conquered Babylon could be the event recalled by the psalmist. Even the people of surrounding nations recognized that the Lord acted on behalf of the Jews. Because of the return of the captives the people celebrated.

Then the psalmist prays that the Lord will restore them as he has in the past. Just as the rains would fill the dry riverbeds of the desert, they wanted God to refresh their arid souls with the moisture of his grace. The psalm ends with the promise that when the people continue to work during their time of distress, God will provide a harvest. We are able to cope with present distress because of our confidence in the future. Only a Christian can claim that promise.

III. A cry in time of captivity (Psalm 137). This psalm was a prayer of the Jews enduring the hardships of the Babylonian exile. Their native songs of joy could not be sung because of their sadness in remembering Zion (Jerusalem). The captives were homesick for their beloved land. They felt separated from God in a foreign land. The psalmist pronounc-

ed a curse on himself if he forgot Jerusalem. The curse would be upon his right hand used to play the harp and his tongue used to sing the songs of Zion.

Next, the psalmist pronounces a curse upon the Edomites (descendants of Esau) for rejoicing over the fall of Jerusalem and upon the Babylonians for carrying them into captivity. Had the psalmist forgotten that it was the Jews' rejection of God that brought God's judgment upon them? The Jews brought their troubles on themselves. Furthermore, we should remember that this psalm was written before we had the teaching of Jesus to love our enemies (Matt. 5:38-47). In addition, we should recognize that God does not localize himself in a particular city or country.

In conclusion, this week's lesson teaches us that during times of troubles we should remember the past actions of God on our behalf, and pray with the faith that God hears our present cries of distress. God will then respond at the most appropriate time to help us.

Charles Wesley is pastor, Morrison Chapel, Cleveland.

Philip: zealous witness, boldly initiates conversation

By Nathan L. Barber
Acts 8:4-8, 26-30, 35, 40

Just before being taken up into heaven Jesus had told his disciples that they were to be his witnesses "... both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth (1:8).

Witness in Jerusalem

Jerusalem felt the first impact of the power which the disciples received when the Holy Spirit had come upon them. Witnessing or evangelizing power was the first evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the life of the early church (2:41). Stephen had willingly given the supreme witness of his life as a martyr at Jerusalem (7:58-60).



Barber

It was, in fact, the stoning death of Stephen which ushered in a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem (8:1).

Witness in Samaria

The persecution of the church in Jerusalem resulted in the scattering of all the disciples, except the apostles, throughout the regions of

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Judea and Samaria (8:2). Now the imperative to be Jesus' witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the remotest part of the earth was perceived and understood in an amazingly new way. "Therefore those who had been scattered went about preaching the word" (v. 4). And Philip also went down (one always went "down" from Jerusalem) to a city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them (v. 5).

Those early disciples didn't feel sorry for themselves or blame anyone for their difficult circumstances; they simply continued to seize every opportunity to witness for Jesus. Multitudes of Samaritans gave attention to what was said by Philip, "... as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing" (v. 6). In this early expansion of the gospel God often used signs and wonders to authenticate his message and messenger. Philip's ministry (loving service) among the Samaritans was such that it produced "... much rejoicing in that city" (v. 8).

As any effective witness must be, Philip was

sensitive to the leadership of the Lord in his life. When the Lord spoke to Philip and told him to go south into Judea to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza, he arose and went (vv. 26, 27a). He was not a reluctant goer or witness. His compelling interest was to discover the purpose for which the Lord had sent him southward into Judea on that particular road at that specific time.

An encounter with an Ethiopian eunuch, returning to his country after worshipping in Jerusalem, provided Philip with the reason for his own journey; to be Jesus' witness in Judea. The Ethiopian eunuch was probably a God-fearer, and he was reading from the Suffering Servant passage of Isaiah 53. After being led to the chariot (or carriage) of the eunuch and hearing him read from Isaiah, Philip boldly initiated a conversation with him by asking, "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip was then invited to join the Ethiopian eunuch and to tell him about the passage of Scripture which he had been reading. "And Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him."

As was the case with the Ethiopian eunuch, Scripture often needs to be interpreted to the

unsaved by a willing witness. God's grace and power can work whenever and wherever opportunities are available. The eunuch believed and desired to be baptized. Philip had probably told the Ethiopian that in baptism he would proclaim the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Baptism became the Ethiopian eunuch's first public testimony as a follower of Jesus, the Christ. Wherever he lived in Ethiopia was to become his Jerusalem as he, too, became a witness for the Lord.

Witness to the remote parts of the earth Philip would never go to Ethiopia, yet in a very real sense he has become a witness to one of the remote parts of the earth through the eunuch, court official of the queen of Ethiopia. However, it was to be Paul who would seriously seek to reach the remote parts of the earth with the gospel. This great missionary apostle willingly responded to the Lord's claim on his life. The Lord said, "... for he is a chosen instrument of mine, to bear my name before the Gentiles and Kings and sons of Israel; For I will show him how much he must suffer for my name's sake" (9:15, 16).

Nathan L. Barber is pastor, First, Bay St. Louis.

Baptist Record

ACTS fund-raisers visit Florida

By Greg Warner and Dan Martin

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — Fund-raisers for the American Christian Television System network visited here April 3 in search of financial backing for the fledgling TV service.

The 1,000 ACTS supporters who met for a free banquet were told their gathering constituted the largest ACTS dinner on record and the largest banquet in Jacksonville's history, even though about 600 guests did not show up.

The Jacksonville effort is a new approach in ACTS fundraising, because the cost was underwritten by nine corporate sponsors in advance of the event. Two of the sponsors donated \$28,000 to pay for the meal, and another \$41,000 was contributed by 10 others.

Previously, fund-raising events had been based on ACTS paying the costs of the campaigns, which generated contributions generally in the form of one-, two- and three-year pledges.

The necessity of spending money to generate donations has put the four-year-old network in difficult financial circumstances. During the first two years of fund raising, ACTS spent \$1.6 million in development efforts. In the same time period, the efforts generated \$2.3 million in pledges but had only received \$1.1 million in cash, leaving a negative balance of \$466,000.

According to Jacksonville ACTS board figures, a budget of \$63,000 was established to hold the dinner, including paying for the room, food, decorations, printing and expenses of

consultants who staged the dinner.

The 12 donors who contributed to the advance gifts phase of the Jacksonville campaign will be featured in 30-second spot announcements on the local ACTS cable outlet, Channel 31, available through Continental Cablevision of Jacksonville, which is accessible to 129,000 homes.

Despite the optimism of national and local ACTS officials about the new approach to fund raising, the Jacksonville campaign did not reach the goal set for the effort. Sponsors had established a "minimum goal" of \$445,000, for the dinner. They also set a "challenge goal" of \$702,000, and a "hard goal" of \$225,000.

Ray Melton, pastor of San Jose Baptist Church in Jacksonville and chairman of the local ACTS board, estimated the effort raised \$191,000, but Bill Nichols, senior vice president of affiliate services for the RTVC, said the figure probably is closer to \$180,000.

Nichols said dinner patrons pledged \$106,000 and gave another \$5,000 in cash. The cash and pledges, added to the \$69,000 in advance gifts, total about \$180,000, he said.

Melton said: "We had hoped it would be more, but it could be significant that more people than usual asked for more information. Such inquiries often produce the largest donations, leaving open the possibility the \$445,000 goal can still be reached."

The \$111,000 in cash and pledges will

be divided evenly between the local ACTS board and the national network. There will be a follow up contact with every person who attended the dinner but who did not make a pledge there.

The Jacksonville banquet was part of the RTVC's attempt to prop up ACTS, which has struggled to stay afloat since it went on the air four years ago.

In 1985 the SBC Executive Committee authorized the commission to borrow \$10 million.

Commission leaders told the Executive Committee in February, however, that development results were disappointing, because income from the various fund-raising activities has not equaled expenses.

ACTS is relying on a major capital campaign in Atlanta and one-shot fund-raising dinners like the one in Jacksonville to bolster its financial fortunes. The Atlanta campaign, which by February had cost \$300,000 and yielded \$176,000 in pledges, is targeted to raise \$1.2 million by June.

Nichols told guests that commercial support should replace private donations as the network's primary source of income in a year or two. ACTS does not ask for donations on the air. Most of the support for ACTS now comes from "the people who already are giving to their churches," he said. "We can't expect these people to support a network that's going to cost \$100 million a year to do the job."

Greg Warner is associate editor, Florida Baptist Witness; Dan Martin is BP feature editor.



Buford Merritt and Carolyn Merritt (holding certificates) are commissioned as volunteer mission workers. At left is Horace Glass, director of missions, George and Greene counties; at center is Roger Gilbert, pastor, Vernal Mission. At right is Johnny Walker, pastor, First, Lucedale.

HMB workers for George and Greene receive certificates of commission

Buford and Carolyn Merritt were recently commissioned as Home Mission Board volunteer mission workers for the George and Greene County area in Mississippi.

The commissioning service took place in Vernal Mission where the Merritts are members. Chaplain Lon-

nie Knight brought the commissioning service address.

Vernal Mission, sponsored by First Church, Lucedale, was furnished by the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering.

The Merritts attended orientation services in Texas.

Jerusalem Baptists lose \$1,200 in theft of safe

JERUSALEM (BP) — Thieves stole a 1,300-pound safe containing about \$1,200 in cash and checks in late April from Baptist House, a ministry to Jewish Christians here.

Southern Baptist representative John Anthony, director of the 62-year-old institution, said the intruders apparently broke through one door and used a key to open another in order to obtain access to the safe.

A witness who saw a truck being loaded about 8:15 p.m. April 28 outside Baptist House has submitted a

description of the vehicle to police.

An unusually large amount of money had accumulated because the Baptist House secretary had been out a few days and banking hours had been restricted because of Israeli holidays. Most of the money stolen belonged to the Narkis Street Baptist Church, which was burned by arsonists in October 1982.

Baptist House and the church, which now meets in a tent-like structure, are located on the same property.

Happiness aside for pleasure, somehow lose that greatest treasure which dogs have in boundless measure: Time for love. — Gene Lindeberg

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Baptist Record

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May 28, 1987

SCRAPBOOK

Baby crying in the night

Baby crying in the night —
Who will help to make things right?
Angels see this scene below —
Jesus loves you — this I know.

Foster mother brings him in.
I wonder: "Where's his next of kin?"
His own real mother — does she know
her nine-month old is suffering so?

Did she forsake him? give him up?
Was she half-child — half-grown girl?
Where's his father?
Love or lust — the child is here
reaching out for love of mother —
Ties of blood bind like no other.

Do the parents ever sigh
When they hear a baby cry?
Do they wonder: "Where is he?"
Their flesh and blood — their tiny "we."

God is gracious — and he's good
to provide what others should.

Prayers go up from room to room
— to bring this baby through the gloom.

Are you afraid of dark, my dear?
Do you recall strong hands — abuse?
Ill treatment, scoldings undeserved?
Tiny minds will soon perceive
neglect or love they now receive.

Doctors, nurses work with you —
How you'd love a mother true!
She would fold you to her breast
Give you peace and quiet and rest.

Those of us in other rooms
who hear your sobs — can only pray
that he — who sees a sparrow fall
will give the nurses wisdom, skill
to soothe a baby's cry.

For three days now, our hearts have heard
the screams and sobs of baby "bird" —
O, Lord, we humbly ask of Thee
to let Thy healing will be done
for this helpless little one.

Jesus, once a babe in arms
sees with pity your alarms —
Knows the nine months of your "bloom"
and the nine months in the womb —
Also — centuries before your birth
before you lived on Planet Earth.

What the cause — and where the pain
that brings your tears like falling rain?

Piercing is the baby's cry
as hours pass — and dark is nigh —
All through the night, till morning's light
the lamps of "Nightingales" are bright.

Baby crying in the night —
Will the little soul take flight?
Even though the tears still flow —
Jesus loves you — this I know.

—Mary Lillian Whitten
Macon

(The author, while in the hospital, heard this baby crying, night after night.)